THE NEW
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IPHONE MAKER FOXCONN MAY PUMP $1 BN INTO TN PLANT

The company is under strong pressure from Apple to slowly shift production of iPhones out of China, Reuters reported

ABOUT 6,000 NEW JOBS OVER THREE YEARS

A total of $1 billion will be invested over three years in the Sriperumbudur plant, sources told the news agency. This will create about 6,000 jobs. Foxconn currently makes iPhone XR in Chennai. Once expanded, the facility would produce other models as well. This will let Apple avoid import dues and make its products more competitive in the Indian market

BIG BOOST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

- Apple can also utilise India's cheaper labour force, and with the gradual expansion of its supplier base here, it could use the country as a significant export hub, the report noted
- The big-ticket investment would be a major boost for PM Modi's Make in India campaign, and would hit China where it hurts | **P10**

Apple

ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 1% OF TOTAL SMARTPHONE SALES IN INDIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

B'luru back indoors for a week from Tuesday, govt locks down 2 districts

Will be more strict, says minister; Huge surge in Covid-19 cases prompts decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONCERNED over the rising number of Covid-19 cases and deaths over the last few days, the State Government on Saturday announced a complete lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts for a week starting 8 pm on July 14 till 5 am on July 22. On Saturday, Karnataka reported 2,798 new cases and 70 deaths with Bengaluru alone accounting for 1,533 new cases, taking the city's tally to 16,868 cases and 229 deaths.

"The lockdown will be enforced more strictly than earlier, when restrictions were imposed across the state, while the government will also change its strategy from zonal-level to local-level monitoring. We had only zonal-level monitoring and surveillance and now should handle this at the booth level," Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar told *The New Sunday Express*. "Let us start with one week's lockdown and see how it helps, we can review it after that," he added.

With parts of the city sealed down and the government announcing another lockdown, a woman cautiously steps out of a godown at Timber Yard on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

The decision to impose the lockdown in the two districts was taken based on recommendations from experts, stated a communication issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Saturday evening. During the lockdown, all essential services will be available and Medical and Post Graduation exams will be conducted as per schedule. Hospitals, grocery shops, vegetables, fruits and other daily essential commodities will be available during the lockdown. The government will announce detailed guidelines on Monday. **P5**

Detailed guidelines on Monday, says CM

"Considering the suggestions from experts to curb the increasing number of Covid cases, the govt has decided to implement a complete lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Rural Districts for seven days starting 8 pm on Tuesday, July 14. Detailed guidelines will be released on Monday," CM B S Yediyurappa said.

WHAT'S ON, WHAT'S NOT

Essential services will be available

Hospitals, pharmacies, grocery, fruits, vegetable shops to be open

Medical and Post-graduate exams will be conducted as scheduled

Public transport, including app-based services and autos will not be available

All non-essential services to be shut

COVID-19 IMPACT

Bad loan mess may get messier, warns RBI guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

RESERVE Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday warned that the economic fallout due to the coronavirus pandemic may worsen the bad loan situation in the country and urged banks to guard against capital erosion.

"The economic impact of the pandemic — due to lockdown and anticipated post-lockdown compression in economic growth — may result in higher non-performing assets and capital erosion of banks," Das said. He was addressing the seventh SBI Banking and Economics Conclave through a video call.

Calling the pandemic "the biggest test of robustness and resilience of our economic and financial system, Das said the outlook for economic recovery still remains uncertain and will depend on how the pandemic unfolds.

"The Indian economy has started showing signs of getting back to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of restrictions," he said, adding it is still uncertain when supply chains will be restored fully. Also, it is not clear how long will it take for demand conditions to normalise, he noted.

In this context, he called for a recapitalisation plan for public sector banks as well as private banks.

Das said the banking regulator has already directed all lenders and non-banking financial firms to take stock of critical processes, revisit their business continuity plans and conduct stress test on their balance sheets to evaluate the risk posed by the pandemic.

The RBI governor also warned of the adverse impact of stress on banks over housing finance companies and mutual funds. "While the NBFC sector, as a whole, may still look resilient, the redemption pressure on NBFCs and mutual funds needs close monitoring, " he said.

Das also called for a legislative backing for a 'resolution corporation' to deal with the financial sector stress.

"Traditionally the approach has been to merge a field bank with a larger bank. While that definitely protects the depositors' interest, it also tends to pull down the balance sheet of the larger bank to which the failed bank is merged," Das argued. **P10**

We need legislative backing to have a resolution corporation which has to deal with resolution and revival of stressed financial firms — RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

NIA picks up prime accused in Kerala gold smuggling case from Bengaluru

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday evening detained **Swapna Suresh** and Sandeep Nair, the key suspects in the Kerala gold smuggling case, from a hotel in Koramangala in Bengaluru, top sources told *TNSE*.

Swapna's minor daughter and another minor, who had accompanied the suspects, were also reportedly present at the time of the duo's detention. "Swapna and Sandeep are being questioned by the NIA in Bengaluru and they will be arrested in due course. After arrest, they will be taken to Kerala and produced before the special court there," said an officer.

According to highly placed sources, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair had reportedly travelled to Bengaluru in a private car along with her husband Jagmohan, their minor daughter and another minor child.

A former woman employee of the UAE consulate, Swapna is a key suspect in the gold smuggling bid through diplomatic baggage and was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "She has reportedly honey-trapped many big wigs in Kerala — from bureaucrats to politicians," said the source.

The counsel for NIA and the Centre had told the Kerala High Court that Swapna had criminal antecedents and was 'involved' in arranging diplomatic papers for smuggling of over 30 kg of gold which was seized by the Customs early this week in Thiruvananthpuram. **MORE:P5**

EXPRESS READ

Bachchan and Jr test Covid +ve

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his son, actor Abhishek, have tested positive for Covid-19. Both have now been admitted to Nanavati hospital. Meanwhile, actress Rehka's residence has been sealed after one of her security guards contracted the virus.

Biocon's drug can now be used on moderate, severe Covid patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Drugs Controller General of India has approved the use of Biocon Ltd's Itolizumab (ALZUMAb) injection (25mg/5mL solution) for emergency for treatment of Covid-19. The drug can be used in treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients due to Covid-19.

Itolizumab is the first novel biologic therapy to be approved in the world for treating patients with moderate to severe Covid-19 complications. Biologic therapy involves using living organisms or substances derived from living organisms, or laboratory-produced versions of such substances to treat disease.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus — which causes Covid-19 — has been observed to induce an overreaction of the immune system, generating a large number of cytokines (immune system cells-secreted protein that regulate immunity inflammation, and blood cells production) that can cause severe damage to lungs and other organs, and, in the worst scenario, multi-organ failure and even death. Itolizumab drug has been found to be useful to treat this condition.

The DCGI's approval for Itolizumab's use is based on results from the successful conclusion of a randomised, controlled clinical trial at multiple hospitals in Mumbai and New Delhi.

The study focussed on the safety and efficacy of Itolizumab in preventing CRS in moderate to severe ARDS patients due to Covid-19. The primary endpoints for reduction in mortality rate were met and other key secondary endpoints for efficacy and biomarkers were also achieved, a Biocon release said.

Biocon has repurposed Itolizumab, an anti-CD6 IgG1 monoclonal antibody, launched in India in 2013 as ALZUMAb for treating chronic plaque psoriasis, for the treatment of CRS in moderate to severe ARDS patients due to Covid-19. Itolizumab will be manufactured and formulated as an intravenous injection at Biocon's bio-manufacturing facility at Biocon Park, Bengaluru. But the price of the drug is not yet fixed. **P5**

Centre: Don't rush with experimental therapies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre has asked the states and medical colleges across the country to focus on providing standard care for Covid-19 patients and advised against the indiscriminate use of investigational therapies.

The advisory comes amid reports of a mad rush to use experimental drugs such as remdesivir and tocilizumab to treat Covid-19 cases.

"These can be used in specific sub-groups of patients on the basis of informed and shared decision-making with the patient before prescribing these drugs..their indiscriminate use or use in conditions for which they are not desirable, may cause more harm than good," the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in a statement.

Experts from ICMR and AIIMS, Delhi on Friday underlined that for moderate and severe cases, adequate oxygen support, appropriate and timely administration of blood thinners and the use of widely available and inexpensive corticosteroids should be considered the mainstay of Covid-19 treatment. **P7**

KERALA HC SHOWS THE WAY

Kerala High Court on March 24 became the first in the country to hold hearings via video conferencing in light of Covid-19. Twenty-one benches have disposed of 7,521 cases so far. Telangana High Court too has performed well, hearing more than 9,000 cases and passing as many as 1,401 judgments through video conferencing.

CJ: Sorting tons of emails, running courts with pains

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Justice **Abhay Shreeniwas Oka** is spending six hours a day sorting emails from advocates requesting urgent hearings, in addition to holding regular video conference sittings — which start at 10.30am and can go up to 5.30pm — five days a week.

Due to the Standard Operating Procedure in place for keeping courts functional during the pandemic, the Chief Justice has been receiving emails from advocate across the state requesting urgent hearings. The Chief Justice uses his discretion to slot hearings for urgent cases at the Principal Bench in Bengaluru, and benches in Dharwad and Kalaburagi, on a day-to-day basis. Things have gotten so bad, that the Chief Justice has threatened to impose cost on inconsiderate advocates.

On July 8, an advocate was told to appear before a division bench, headed by Chief Justice Oka via video conference, before the court began hearing listed matters for the day, and got a mild reprimand. **P5**

Top court bears brunt of lockdown; relief expected

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

FROM July 13, the Supreme Court will start hearing miscellaneous as well as regular matters, bringing some respite to lawyers as well as litigants. This comes at a time when courts across the country seem to have been crippled by the Covid-19 lockdown.

The judiciary, already reeling under huge pendency of cases, has found 'virtual hearings' have not brought much relief as these are meant only for urgent matters. For regular cases, both lawyers and litigants are facing a tough time.

In normal circumstances, the top court takes a two-month vacation every summer. This year, it has slashed the vacation time to just two weeks but it hasn't helped matters.

The main reason for hearing less number of cases during lockdown is non-availability of infrastructure for virtual hearings. In the Supreme Court and high courts, special arrangements were made only after the pandemic spread. Beginning from e-filing to virtual court hearings, all was done during this period. Several glitches crop up every day, at times frustrating lawyers and judges.

The Supreme Court had suspended the entry of lawyers and litigants to the court premises a day before the lockdown began in March. Later, a judicial direction was given, asking high courts to operate similarly. The high courts, too, issued orders to the subordinate judiciary to hear cases through video-conferencing. Since March 23, a total of 618 benches have heard 6,994 cases, in addition to 150 matters that were heard by the Registrar.

During this period, the Supreme Court delivered 672 judgments in 134 main and 538 connected matters.

WITH THIS ISSUE
READING MINDS
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

A DIFFERENT TAKE

WFH is different for this techie, she sells veggies to help mom

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WHEN most software engineers have opted for 'Work from Home', a 25-year-old techie is working for her home by selling vegetables to help her ailing mother. Her workplace has changed drastically from online to offline and from AC rooms to the roadside. But the fiercely proud techie says no job is big or small.

Anukumari, a graduate in Computer Science Engineering who was working in a software firm till February, returned to Mandya to take care of her mother. After a few days, she was to go back to Bengaluru to look for a job again. But then due to the Covid-19 outbreak, there was lockdown and the IT market was also down.

Her father Veerender Singh runs a small panipuri shop and her mother used to sell vegetables on the roadside. Her sister is studying.

Anu who was trying to make her career in software engineering did not even think twice to take up her mother's work as her doctor advised the former complete rest.

Every day, Anu and her father get up at 3.30am and go to Mandya Market to buy vegetables in wholesale. They return home only by 5.30 am. At 7am, Anu spreads the vegetables on the roadside in Chamundeshwarinagar and starts selling them.

"My father and my sister take care of the house while I sell vegetables. No job is big or small—I believe in dignity of labour," says this gritty woman.

Anu sells vegetables till 8 pm and goes back home after that. "On an average, we make some Rs 1,000 profit which we spend on mother's treatment. We have to take her to Mysuru hospital," she says. She takes the change in her work routine quite stoically. **P5**

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | SUNDAY STORY

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday 12/07/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Saptami 2.16 pm • Nakshatra: Utthara Bhadra 7.51 am • Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.00 am | Sunset 6.50 pm | Moonrise 12.00 pm | Moonset 11.05 am

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 12.07.2020 | newindianexpress.com

BACK TO THE ROOTS

Joida's giant tubers find a place on Karnataka's agricultural map

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S
@Joida (Uttara Kannada)

EVERY backyard in Joida's small villages in the forest, where the number of houses does not exceed ten, has trenches. You can see people digging deep in the backyards of their houses. Every year in January, they begin this activity by offering a prayer to the gods and then dig out giant tubers. They bow with respect as they pick up the tuber carefully and take it into the house. Some tubers are as large as four feet and weigh not less than 15 kg.

People are now making a beeline for this tiny town in Uttara Kannada district. Hoysala Appaji, a farmer from Hassan, was in Joida. Appaji, an organic farmer from Holenarasipura, cultivates new crops. He was fascinated by the pictures of huge tubers grown around Joida by the Kunbis, originally a hunting tribe. Having come for a reality check, he was thrilled to see the huge tubers. "I am so happy to know that they exist," he says. He was later seen filling up his bag with tubers so that he can cultivate them on his farm.

Venkatesh works with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and is 'a weekend farmer', near Tumukuru. He has cultivated various fruits and vegetables. He now wants tubers to be added in his farm. Describing the tubers as a lesser known treasure, he too was moving around with a checklist to pick them up with the help of a local interpreter.

Like Appajii and Venkatesh, hundreds of enthusiastic farmers, farming experts from various universities and colleges and even a few agro-based organisations flock to 'Tuber land' Joida to know more about the crop grown here.

Ten years ago, Kunbi women would stand along the highways displaying huge tubers. Vehicles passing by would stop and buy these 'huge roots' at a throw away price as the women are not market-savvy.

"People would buy one huge piece of tuber and our women would give away almost the same size free of cost," says Ravishankar Derekar, whose family is a pioneer in cultivating and gathering tubers.

Though tubers may not look impressive, they are considered a great crop considering various aspects -- health, nutrition and search for alternative food.

The Kunbis who have been picking up the 'super yam' from forests since several decades used it as food, before they brought it into cultivation. "This was basically done by women and they are the ones who began cultivating and harvesting them," says Jayanand Derekar, president of Kunbi Samaj and the man who is instrumental in getting a special tag from the Union department of biotechnology for the crop.

Starting with a few ones, the Kunbis have now identified 45 varieties of tubers of all sizes. "Though they are cultivated now, originally they are forest produce. Most of the wild varieties have been identified and cultivated," explains Narasimha Bhat Chapkanda, a wildlife enthusiast.

The tubers are available in various shapes and sizes and their identification is not easy. "They are so similar that most of them would be difficult to identify unless they are consumed," says Yogish Derekar, tuber cultivator from Deriya village in Joida taluk.

However, some of them have been identified by the Kunbis and named Alokeceae, Koloceae, Greater yam, Ariel bulbs, Bench types, Finger types, Hairy yam (hairy types) Wild edible type etc.

Considering its increasing popularity and the health benefits, the Kunbi community with the help of the locals has started organising a 'Tuber Mela' at Joida. The first mela was held in 2014 and witnessed the participation of 62 farmers. "The mela is organised so that it would serve as a platform for buyers and sellers," says Jayanand.

Considering the contribution of Kunbis in protecting the tubers, the Union Ministry for Agriculture has honoured them with the 'Plant genome saviour award.'

PICS: SUBHASH CHANDRA N S

In the wake of global warming, most of our traditional crops are becoming extinct. However, the tubers, being resistant to global warming, can be an alternative food crop with rich nutrition. The conservation and propagation of tubers hold the key

— Balachandra Hegde, expert on Western Ghats flora

Vikhyath and his wife Nandanisha at their dairy farm in Heggunje village in Udupi | PRAKASH SAMAGA

Beyond corporate life, joy in a dairy farm

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

A high-flying corporate career with a plum salary might be a dream come true, but not for this couple. Hailing from Heggunje near Brahmavara in Udupi district, they abandoned all of this for a very different calling – the moo of cows! Today, they are proud owners of a dairy farm, with 40 cows and agricultural land back home.

Vikhyath Kumar Shetty, a software engineer, and his wife Nandanisha quit their jobs in Bengaluru eight years ago. When they began their dairy venture in 2012, they had 10 cows, which increased to 40 within one year.

Vikhyath's 40 milch cows, belonging to Holstein, Jersey and Sahiwal breeds, provide between 280 and 300 litres of milk a day. He supplies this milk to Manya Cooperative Society in Heggunje, located just 2 km from his house.

Vikhyath completed his BE in Computer Science from RNSIT, Murudeshwar, in 1994, and went on to work for an IT company in Chennai for six years, before moving to Bengaluru to further his career. Nandanisha, an MBA graduate from Mangalore University, also worked at a private company in Bengaluru for a brief period. A joint decision changed their life's goals forever.

Reminiscing that moment, Vikhyath told *TNSE*: "Either I had to call my parents to stay with me in Bengaluru and make them adjust to the hustle and bustle of the city, or to ourselves shift to the village and look after them, and find prosperity in dairy farming and agriculture. We both chose the latter. The journey from coding to farming has made me a believer in calling myself a 'boss of my own work'."

Meanwhile, Nandanisha was also more interested in adopting the rustic occupation of dairy farming, than settling down in a metro.

The 10 acres of land that he had in his village was opportune for Vikhyath to take the plunge straightaway. He visited many dairy farmers in Bengaluru to develop his own model.

Low on funds to set up his dairy farm, Vikhyath had to take a loan of Rs 25 lakh from a bank. Once the farm began, he paid attention towards creating its infrastructure. All this dedication has paid off!

In dairy farming and agriculture, there is no escape from the mooing, dung and hard work, says Vikhyath.

What does it take to be a successful dairy farmer? One needs to be an animal lover first, he says, adding, "If a worker is absent on any day, I go and feed the cows myself. Matters like insemination, cleanliness and timely medicine factor a lot." Vikhyath's father Sudhakar Shetty, who also used to rear cows, also advises him.

Grass is grown over five acres of their land, providing a steady supply of feed for the cows, and the slurry that gets generated in the cattle shed is diverted back to the grassland.

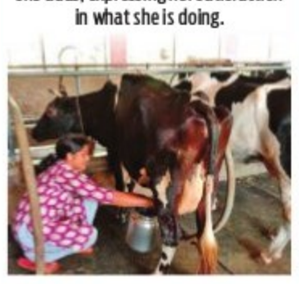
Apart from lasting contentment, the dairy farm has also brought favourable economic returns in its wake. To begin with, the milk brings in revenue; then the cow dung manure from the farm also fetches Rs 20,000 per month.

Today, their 10-acre farm boasts of arecanut, coconut, cashewnut, red sandalwood, chikoo, banana and mango trees. Vikhyath also has 3 acres of paddy field, yielding about 60 quintals annually, which gives him and his wife the unique happiness of growing what they need on their platter every day.

The journey has only begun for this agri-entrepreneurial couple. Soon, they plan to diversify, producing rice rotis.

'GOVERNMENT MUST PUSH AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP'

Nandanisha, who supports Vikhyath in his venture, says that entrepreneurship in the farm sector will really help prevent educated youth from abandoning agriculture and migrating to cities. "The government should support these kind of ventures financially with seed money schemes," she adds, expressing her satisfaction in what she is doing.



UNDAUNTED BY COVID

Residents pitch in to help family of five

PREEJA PRASAD @Bengaluru

FOR this five-member family residing in Vasanth Nagar, things looked bleak when all of them tested positive for Covid-19. With the father working as a priest at a temple, the family was struggling to make ends meet. In a huge relief to the family, and considering the stigma associated with the virus, residents of Vasanth Nagar decided to pitch in and help them with the essentials.

"When we tested positive, my mother and two sisters were admitted in CV Raman hospital. My father and I were being treated at home. It was difficult to manage since our family was separated. But the residents got in touch with us and even today, they continue to provide us with food," said 22-year-old Simran Sharma, who tested positive on July 4 along with her father. She is currently isolating herself with her family at their residence.

"We have recovered and are in quarantine. Our house has been sealed off. We do face stigma as whenever we come out to the balcony, people stare at us. But frankly, there is nothing to be worried about. We need to keep ourselves healthy," she said.

The residents would leave the essentials just outside the residence on a platform so they do not come in contact as the family continues to isolate themselves. The family were mildly symptomatic and though three of the members got beds in the hospital, the other two had to be home quarantined.

With antiviral drugs costing Rs 500 for 10 tablets per person which lasts only for a week, several patients are finding it difficult to manage the expenses. "We got in touch with the family and understood they needed help. A lot of people are scared when their neighbours test positive. We have to take precautionary measures of course, but not treat the patients as untouchables. We must move forward and help people as they are being isolated, give them courage and confidence during this time. We must act as the Florence Nightingales to those around," said Rajkumar Dugar, co-founder of Citizens 4 Citizens (C4C).

A family that tested positive and recovered, receives supplies from neighbours as they are quarantined at home, in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR

Locals blame BBMP for leachate leak, officials deny allegations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE residents of Chikkanagamangala protested against the BBMP again, as leachate allegedly started flowing out of a waste management plant on Friday night. The residents blocked the entry of garbage trucks into the plant by squatting on the road and burning tyres on Saturday morning, forcing the police to step in.

Pranay Dubey, president of resident welfare association Electronics City Rising, said, "We noticed black water with leachate flowing out of the main gate of the solid waste management plant in Chikkanagamanagala on Friday night. We immediately alerted the locals, the BBMP and the police. The BBMP said it was not leachate and promised us to look into the matter," he said.

Around 40,000 families stay around the plant. The locals said that normally, a foul smell emanates from the site. But it became stronger after the leak. They said the lake and farms in the vicinity too get contaminated because of the plant and the government is yet to address the issue.

The residents of Chikkanagamangala stage a protest in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

"What happened to the claim that local communities should manage their own garbage? Eight months ago, the government and NGT solid waste management committee had assured us that the issue of stench would be addressed, but nothing has happened. Also if it is a waste processing plant, why is waste being dumped in the pits nearby," asked RWA members.

Venkatesh G, a villager said, "Last night, we saw 15 people enter the plant after a complaint was raised. Waste from Bengaluru is being dumped in our neighbourhood."

BBMP chief engineer, SWM, South, Vishwanath said, "It was not leachate but water overflowing from the abandoned quarry pits. Sand has been placed to stop the flow. It was an old abandoned quarry spread across 23 acres which has been converted into a waste-to-energy plant. The locals do not want the plant and are protesting."

Another BBMP official said that the government had signed an MoU with a French company to set up a waste-to-energy plant and the work will start by the year-end. Only a portion of the plant is now being used to process waste and covert to manure.

Despite all odds, Christ University to go ahead with online exams

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

CHRIST deemed-to-be-university is planning to conduct online examinations for the intermediate semester students which will begin on July 13.

Students speaking to *TNSE* said that the university had collected Rs 500 fee for the online examination, in addition to the exam fee that was paid earlier. Although there is no written communication to say it is mandatory to pay the fees and take the exam, students said that there was pressure to enrol for the online exam and there was no clarity on whether they would get a refund.

Vinisha (name changed), a student, said that the online classes for the next academic year have already begun in May (which in ordinary times would begin only in June). Online classes have been rigorous with five-hour sessions and assignments that make daily schedules hectic, and amid this, the university plans the examination, she said.

Students said that the State Government directive to universities in Karnataka about cancelling the exams for non-final year students, did not apply to Christ, by virtue of its title 'deemed to be university'.

A top university official told *TNSE* that they decided to hold the examination after a month-long deliberation with the academic staff. "Going ahead without examinations would be a lie in terms of evaluating learning outcomes which the programme assures. Even global players in Europe and the USA decided to hold the examinations," the official stated.

About the fee of Rs 500, the official said that several students who were unable to pay were given a waiver. And the Rs 500 fees for registration on the online platform does not even cover a third of the cost of the platform, he said.

UGC guidelines in April specify that institutes should evaluate students based on previous marks. The official said they have, however, decided to hold the online exam. "We will hold offline exams too in the days to come and those who did not opt for online can appear for those eventually," the official said.

The schedule remains undecided for offline exams due to the prevailing uncertainty. For those taking online exams, results will be declared in 15 days from the time of the exam
An official

UNITED WE STAND

Students crowdfund, buy mattresses for Covid units

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

TO help the State Government tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bangalore Student Community (BSC), a group of over a thousand students from colleges in the city, has raised Rs 3.8 lakh using a crowdfund programme to donate a few hundred mattresses to Covid Care Centres in the city in the past week. By Friday, they sent as many as 536 mattresses to the University of Agricultural Sciences.

The BSC initiated the programme on Instagram and WhatsApp from July 4 to 6. In just three days, they collected Rs 3.8 lakh.

"We were aware that the government was facing a big shortage of mattresses and that they were renting them. It was turning out to be an expensive affair for them and we decided to conduct the drive," said Dhruv Jatti, a core team member of BSC.

For Manal Fazal, a student of Christ College who was part of the target team, raising funds till as late as 1 am felt like a pressing responsibility on the part of the student community to help society.

This is not the first time that the students have risen to the occasion. Earlier, they collected Rs 10 lakh as part of a fundraiser for migrant workers.

Malavika Uthappa from Mount Carmel College, who was part of the initiative, felt it becomes vital for students to be part of the process in the current situation.

These students are now contemplating safe ways to be part of the ground support team in hospitals.

Not the time for politics: Ashwath Narayan

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

Q&A
C N ASHWATH NARAYAN

AS the ruling BJP and Opposition Congress continue to spar over alleged irregularities in the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and other necessities to fight Covid-19, Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan says rates of equipment that were high in the initial stages have been changing and all purchases are subject to scrutiny. "Nobody can get away with anything. But by taking up the issue now, the Opposition is trying to victimise and create fear among officers," he told *The New Sunday Express*. Excerpts:

■ Opposition parties are alleging irregularities in the procurement of PPE kits and other equipment...
Everything is subject to scrutiny and is accountable, but is it the time to talk about it? Don't they trust the system, as they had also been in the government? They are trying to create fear among officers by targeting and victimising government employees so that no work happens. That is their main intention. Nobody can get away with any mismanagement. So far, not more than Rs 600 crore has been spent on procurement and it is done in a transparent manner. In the initial stages, costs were high, but they have gradually come down. We can discuss these issues and also compare prices at which the Congress governments would have procured the equipment. But this is not the time for politics, and they can take it up when the legislature session is on.

■ The state had managed the situation well in the initial stages, and the Centre had asked others to follow our model. Suddenly, there is a surge in numbers...
The movement of people from different districts, states and countries after economic activities were opened up and people not taking adequate precautions resulted in the increase in numbers. We need to work more on preventive measures. Some people may think they are exceptions and that the virus will not affect them. That should not be the attitude, as no one is an exception.

■ Do you think the state could have managed Unlock 1.0 better? Did the government rush to reopen economic activities without taking adequate precautions?
We have done our best under the given circumstances, but there is always scope for improvement and we will work in that direction. Resource mobilisation and prioritisation have been good. Unlocking is being done in phases, and even now, it is not complete. If you look at the population (in Bengaluru), the numbers are not too high.

■ How serious is the situation in Bengaluru?
Around 80-90 per cent who tested positive are asymptomatic, while around 5 per cent become critical and serious. We can manage that 5 per cent effectively. We can take care of them as the infrastructure, including ICUs and ventilators, is ready. Our priority is to minimise mortality. Lockdown is not a permanent solution, and the way forward is to control the spread by conducting tests and isolating people.

■ Initially, you were very active and held a number of meetings, and put the tech support in place. But suddenly you went off the radar, and now you are back...
I have always been working day and night. I am the Deputy Chief Minister and not just a minister in charge of one department. I oversee all ministries. For other ministers, there could be restrictions, but there is none for me.

■ Lack of coordination among ministers was said to be one of the reasons for the state slackening in the Covid fight...
That is not correct. The fight against the pandemic is led by the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, and everyone is actively involved. All have been authorised to take decisions and they don't have to wait for any approvals. They can approach the CM immediately.

■ Has the state reached the community spread stage?
No. Other cities that have reported a higher number of cases too have not reached the community spread stage. How can we?

■ There have been many cases of people dying after failing to get treatment at hospitals...
The collection of samples increased more than the capacity to test, and hospitals were not willing to admit people who were waiting for their reports. Also, there were shortcomings in reporting and uploading information on the ICMR (Indian Council for Medical Research) portal, which we are addressing. The number of tests is being increased and we are addressing all other concerns on testing and treatment. Triaging is being done at the ground level. Wherever we are facing challenges or shortcomings, we are strengthening those areas.

Rescue personnel continue the search for Monalika on Saturday | PANDARINATH B

6-yr-old still missing, plaint against parents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE six-year-old girl, who fell into a drain in Bellandur on Friday, has still not been found.

Fire and rescue personnel, joined by the State Disaster Response Force and the National Disaster Response Force, renewed the search early on Saturday morning, and covered about 2km of the 5km Rajakaluve (main drain) which connects Bellandur and Varthur lakes. Rescue personnel suspect that her body could be stuck in silt which is very deep and will continue to look for her on Sunday.

Monalika, who fell into the drain while playing with other children, lived in a slum near the drain with her parents, Nityanand and Bowli Kulia, who hail from Assam.

Case filed

BBMP officials have filed complaints of negligence with the Marathahalli police against her parents, and against Ravi Kumar, on whose land the slum-dwellers have lived for about a decade. However, an FIR has not yet been registered.

SIMILAR INCIDENTS

- **October 7, 2015** — Prakash (15) who went fishing fell into a canal and drowned in Veeranna Palya
- **June 1, 2015** — Junaid (10), who went to pick up a cricket ball which had fallen into a storm water drain, drowned in Devarabisanahalli
- **May 2011** — A 12-year-old boy fell into a storm water drain near Mysore Road
- **May 31, 2009** — A six-year-old boy fell into an uncovered drain flooded with rainwater at Lingarajapuram. His body was never found.
- **September 2011** — An 18-month-old infant fell into a drain near Madiwala

Siddu should go to Vidhana Soudha to audit Covid spend: Somashekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

COOPERATION Minister S T Somashekar on Saturday denied opposition leader Siddaramaiah's allegations about irregularities in Covid-related purchases by the State government, and fired a salvo at the former chief minister.

"Instead of sitting here in Mysuru, he should go to Vidhana Soudha along with his auditors and verify the accounts. CM Yediyurappa has already announced that he is ready to release all the accounts," the minister told reporters in Mysuru.

Claims of financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 2,300 crore were baseless, he said, as the State government has spent only Rs 550 crore for Covid-related activities across Karnataka.

Initially, prices for goods were higher, but they had reduced subsequently due to competition, he said.

#LekkaKodi, Congress tells government

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

The Congress, which has accused the government of irregularities in Covid purchases, launched the #LekkaKodi social media campaign on Saturday, demanding that the government release details of the expenditure, and also funds released by the Central government

Assembly Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah appealed to Congress legislators, MPs and party workers to participate in the campaign.

He demanded transparency on money spent for purchasing the PPE kits, test kits, sanitiser, and thermal scanners. "They must give details on the market price of the equipment, the price at which the government procured them and details of the companies," he said.

The Congress also demanded the government provide information about food kits. "How many food kits were given to migrant labourers and how much money was spent," he asked. It is the government's duty to provide the details to people. KPCC working president Eshwar Khandre and other Congress leaders too demanded the government make information about the Covid expenditure public.

The government ha rubbished the allegations made by the Congress.

IN THE HC

Courts can't direct physical presence of surety: HC

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court laid down the procedure to avoid physical presence of sureties while granting bail to accused, as a precaution against Covid-19. Framing guidelines to check the genuineness of sureties and avoid physical presence, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty said no court shall direct the physical presence of surety before it. Pronouncing the order while hearing a PIL registered suo motu to address technical issues arising due to hearing of cases by video conference, the bench said it is the duty of courts and stakeholders to ensure that courts do not become a source of Covid-19 transmission. Courts can summon sureties to appear on video conference, it said. **ENS**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RATHNA S**, R/at No.322/20, 1st main Road, Near Sai Baba Temple, Cambridge Layout, Bangalore-560008 have changed my name to **RATHNA DHRUVA KUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 10/07/2020 before notary **K.V .Bachi Reddy** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kutty Lakshmi, Aged about 43 years, W/o. Mr.Saravanan Srinivasan, R/at Door No.742,5th Main, 2nd Cross, Arogyappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560043 has changed my name to **LAKSHMI SHANKARAN NANU NAIR** vide affidavit dt:10/7/2020 sworn before P.N.Nagesha, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore .

brides

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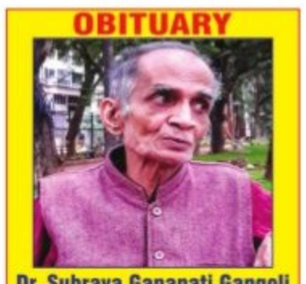
என் தம்பி, வயது 31, பி.எஸ்.சி, சொந்த வீடு, ரூ. 20,000 வருமானம் கையில் மிகச்சிறிய குறைபாடு உள்ள வரனுக்கு 10 அல்லது +2 படித்த ஏழ்மையான குடும்பத்திலிருந்து பிராமண மணமகள் தேவை. உடலில் சிறிய குறைபாடு, விவாகரத்து, விதவை பெண்களும் சம்மதம். 8667219090, 9176436788. CL0032157

என் தம்பி, வயது 42, டிப்ளமோ, சொந்த வீடு, ரூ. 20,000 வருமானம் உள்ள வரனுக்கு 10 அல்லது +2 படித்த ஏழ்மையான குடும்பத்திலிருந்து பிராமண மணமகள் தேவை. விவாகரத்து, விதவை பெண்களும் சம்மதம். 9176436788, 8667219090. CL0032146

OBITUARY



Dr. Subraya Ganapati Gangoli
1938- 2020
Left us for the heavenly abode on July 10th, 2020. A wonderful human being, brilliant physicist & a philanthropist, he shall continue to live through his good deeds in the hearts of everyone who knew him. His words of wisdom shall guide us always. We shall miss you forever, Dadu.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri S.Gopal Rao** S/o Rama Rao aged about 72 years, R/at No.290, MES Colony, Murugesh Palya, Behind Rajeshwari Theater, Konena Agrahara, Bengaluru-560 017,has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 26/04/1973 bearing Registration No.2222/1973-74, page No.50-52 registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore City. But in spite of best effort made by him, he could not trace out the same. In this regard he had lodged the complaint before Commissioner of police through E-Lost on 11/07/2020. The said document is belongs to property bearing No.290, MES Colony, Konena Agrahara, HAL Post, Bengaluru-560 017, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 27 1/2 feet. My client further instruct that, if anybody found the above said document or in illegal possession of the same, my client is not responsible, and may be handover the same to the above address **within 7 days** and bounded as follows: **East by:** Property of Byramma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property of Lakshimi Ammal, **South by:** Property of S.Kannaiah Rao & S.Gopal Rao.

Ullas M. Advocate,
#51, 4th 'B' Main, Chandana Layout, Srigandhadakaval, B'lore-91.M:8970220019

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general that my client Sri Shivaputte Gowda, Son of Late Lingegowda and Late Kempamma, resident of 1882/33, 5th Main Road, 9th Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore- 560 104 is the sole and absolute owner, enjoying peaceful possession of the immoveable property comprising of a residential site bearing Site No. 43, Khata No. 39/2838/43, measuring 4000 square feet, situated at II Layout formed by NTI Employees Housing Co-Operative Society Limited, Narispura village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore, bounded on East by Road, West by Site No. 44, North by Road, South by Site No.42 (hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property) hereby declares and confirms by way of an affidavit dated 11 July 2020 that the Schedule Property actually measures East to West 80 feet (24.38 meters) and North to South 50 feet (15.29 meters) totally admeasuring 4000 square feet instead of East to West 50 feet (15.29 meters) and North to South 80 feet (24.38 meters). My client intends to execute a rectification deed in respect of the Sale Deed dated 16 June 1986, registered as Document No. 1573 of 1989-90, on 19 January 1990, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore;

The aforementioned typographical error has crept in the following documents in respect of the Schedule Property;

i. Sale Deed dated 06 December 1982, registered as Document No. 3332/1982-83, in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore North Taluk, executed by Smt Ranganayakamma, W/o Dr C R Prasad in favour Sri H C Nataraj, S/o Sri Channe Gowda;
ii. Sale Deed dated 16 June 1986, registered as Document No. 1573 of 1989-90, on 19 January 1990, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore, executed by Sri H C Nataraj in favour of Smt Kempamma, W/o Sri. Lingegowda;
iii. Will dated 13 July 1992 executed by Smt Kempamma, W/o Sri Lingegowda

We hereby call upon Sri H C Nataraj, S/o Sri Channe Gowda, resident of No. 447, 6th Cross, J P Nagar, III Phase, Bangalore – 560078 and/or any other person(s) having any objection/claim to the proposed deed of rectification, to send such claim or objection in writing along with relevant documentary evidence to the address mentioned below within 21 days from this day failing which my client will presume that there are no claims or objections in respect of the proposed rectification and therefore shall proceed with the execution of deed of rectification in respect of the Schedule Property.

Contact Address: **N K Law Chambers,** Old No. 03, New No.06, 2nd Floor, D N Ramaiah Layout, Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore – 560 020; E-mail: nikhilkurgod@nklaw.in; Mobile Number: +91-98453373716

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Public in general that my client SRI. B. R. SRIDHAR, aged about 53 years, Son of Late M.L. Ramachandra Gowda, R/o No.4021, 1ST Floor, 6th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bidarahalli, BSK II stage, Bangalore- 560 070, intends to enter into a Sale Agreement, with Sri. Dr.NAVIN C, Aged about 65 years, S/o Sri. Channe Gowda, R/o No. 37/4/18, " Sri. Channakeshava Nilaya", Gangadhara Layout, Off Nagarbhavi Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore- 560 040, in respect of the Property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder. Any person/persons having any manner of right, title or interest in the said property shall file their objections, along with relevant documents within 7 days from this day, failing which my client shall treat the same as No objection.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Site No. 80, Carved out of Sy.No. 51/2A, Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, coming under Gubbalala, Karishma Hills, Uttarahalli Sub Division, Ward No.184, Subramanyapura, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, (Land Converted vide Order No.B.Dis. ALN.SR(S) 17/98-99, DATED:16-12-1998 for residential purposes from the Spl D.C.(R), Bangalore District), measuring 0-08.77 (8.77 Guntas) out of 10-21 Guntas and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.81,
West by : Property bearing No.79,
North by : Road & (Interior Road),
South by : Property bearing No.86.

Sd/- **SRI. D. SURESH BABU RAJ,** ADVOCATE, SURESH LAW ASSOCIATES, No.81/3b, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, PWD Road, Akashnagar, A. Narayanapura, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore- 560 016.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my Client Mr. Rakesh Prakash Totlani and Mrs. Urvashi Rakesh Totlani have entered into an Agreement of Sale agreeing to Purchase the Residential Apartment New No.18/87,(Old No.A-601), Fifth Floor of Block "ASPEN" of Project "PRESTIGE ST.JOHN'S WOOD" measuring 2246 sq.ft of SBA, BBMP Pl.D.No.66-39-18/87 more fully described in the below mentioned Schedule Property from Mr.Ravi Tembe Rangarao for lawful and valid Consideration.

If any Person/s, Bank/Society/Firm or any other body having any right, title and interest or claims over the below mentioned Property or any portion thereof, may lodge their Objections, Claims, if any, in writing with authenticated Documentary Proof to the undersigned within 7(Seven) Days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, failing which it shall be construed by my Client that no Claims/Objections of whatsoever nature are there in respect of the Schedule Property or any portion thereof and the intended transaction will be finalized as if no such Claims exists or that they have been waived or abandoned and our Client shall not be bound by any objections/claims submitted/raised later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing New No.18/87,(Old No.A-601) in the Fifth Floor of Block "ASPEN" of the Project "PRESTIGE ST.JOHN'S WOOD" measuring 2246 square feet of super built up area approximately and BBMP Pl.D.No 66-39-18/87 built in Property forming portion of Municipal No.18, Second Cross Road, Chikka Adugodi New Extension, Bangalore with 1105/352081. 72th Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land which comes to 1105 square feet of land share with One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Floor.

VIJAY KUMAR M, Advocate
TALREJA ASSOCIATES (Ph-9845531438)
No.1, Swasti Main Road, 3rd Cross, Lakshmi Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560 027.

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Invites to participate in E- Open Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items, **Tender closing Time: 14:00 Hrs.**

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description in brief	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	83201102A	Computerized Reservation Ticket with advertisement in size of 18 cms x 10 cms.	17160 Rolls	23.07.2020
2	38201256	High capacity draft gear arrangement including draft gear.	220 Nos.	23.07.2020
3	30201492	Hanger for bogie bolster suspension.	11200 Nos.	24.07.2020
4	30205005	Luggage Rack complete.	1350 Nos.	24.07.2020
5	16201131	Kit main bearing.	101 Nos.	24.07.2020
6	33201069	Non asbestos based organic brake pad for LHB coaches.	8100 Sets.	27.07.2020
7	16201459A	Over Hauling kit.	64 Sets.	27.07.2020
8	30201244	Non asbestos based 'K' type high friction composite brake blocks.	63000 Nos.	28.07.2020
9	17201156	Purchase of spares for water cooled air compressor.	524 Nos.	28.07.2020
10	33201059	Brake cylinder for LHB coaches.	15 Nos.	30.07.2020
11	17201042	Purchase of spares for water cooled air compressor.	5260 Nos.	30.07.2020
12	81205001	Liquid Petroleum GAS to IS Spec: 4576-1999.	34200 Kgs.	30.07.2020
13	38201023	Panel patch plate.	10330 Nos.	03.08.2020
14	38201033	Silico Manganese liner.	100600 Nos.	04.08.2020
15	38201183	Air brake hose coupling complete for brake pipe.	3500 Nos.	06.08.2020
16	30201413	Screw coupling assembly.	230 Nos.	06.08.2020
17	30201348	OH kit for C3W type distributor valve.	900 Nos.	06.08.2020
18	56201089	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Aluminium conductor power cable.	500 KMs.	17.08.2020
19	30201411	Revised IRS side buffer casing.	500 Nos.	03.09.2020
20	30201115	Silent block for anchor link.	5600 Nos.	03.09.2020
21	30201529	Brake beam 16T complete for BG coaches.	2130 Nos.	08.09.2020
22	30201311	High capacity rubber buffer spring for 1225KGM capacity.	800 Nos.	08.09.2020

For details log on: **www.ireps.gov.in**

PUB/93/AAAL/PRB/SWR/2020-21 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

SIR M. VISVESVARAYA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
#109, Corporate Office, Shankarmutt Road, Shankarpuram, Bangalore – 560 004.
Phone No.22956419 / 420. Sale Officer : 8095340265

SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Co-operative Bank ltd has brought to sale the below mentioned immovable properties mortgaged to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Co-operative Bank Ltd, in "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" under the Securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred U/s 13(4) read with (Rules 8 & 9)

Name of the Borrower : **M/s. Raju Enterprises. Prop. Sri.Raju S N. S/o. Somappa**
Guarantor : **Smt.Sujathamma** W/o. **Sri. S N Raju, Smt. Ramya H R** D/o. **Sri. S N Raju Sri. Rakesh Raj H R** S/o. **Sri.S N Raju,** all Residing at #12, 7th Cross, Jayanagar, Tekal Road, Kolar- 563101.

Auction of Property : All the piece & parcel of the Intermediate land in block No.4 (Sketch No./19080312796240001) Sy No.3/1, measuring 20 Guntas (Twenty Guntas), Carved out of a total area of 1.37 Acres, Kodiramasandra village, Kasaba Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District in a duly converted by office of the Deputy Commissioner Kolar from Agricultural Land to Industrial purpose vide order No. ALN SR (KO)/114/16-17 Dt. 09.05.2017 with a building constructed there on and bounded on : East by - Land in Sy No. 3/3, West by - Land in Sy No. 1 & 2, North by - Tamaka village border (Property of S N Raju), South by - Remaining Land in Sy No. 3/1

Property No. 2 - All the piece and parcel of vacant site property bearing Old Site No. 28, Old Assessment No.505/37, New Assessment 505/37/A/28/A, CMC Khatha No. 576, New Khatha No.576/A, Ward No 15, Harohalli (After byepass), Kolar Nagara, measuring East To West 15 ft and North to South 60 ft. in all measuring to 900 sq ftand Site No.29, Old Assessment No.505/28, New Assessment 605/38/29, CMC Khatha No. 577, Ward No 15, Harohalli (After byepass), Kolar Nagar, measuring East To West 30 ft and North to South 60 ft. in all measuring to 1800 sq ft belongs to Sri S N Raju and bounded and as follows : East by - Remaining portion of Site No.28, West by - Property belongs to Sri C S Ranganna, North by - Remaining portion of Site No. 31 and Site No 30, South by - 20 ft Mud road.

Property No. 3 - All the piece and parcel of vacant site property bearing No. 30, Assessment No. 505/39/30, Municipal Old Khatha No. 578, New Khatha No.579, measuring East To West 34 feet and North to South – Towards Eastern side 92 feet and towards Western Side 96 feet (34 X (92+96) / 2ft), out of the total site area, sale consideration area is 34X(72 ½ +76 ½ ft) 2 ie. 2533 sq ft and Site No.31, Old Assessment No. 505/40, New Assessment No.505/40A/31/A, Municipal Old Khatha No.579, New Khatha No. 579/A Ward No 15, Harohalli, (After Bye pass), Kolar measuring East to West 17 ft & North to South on the eastern side 85 feet and on the Western side 92 feet (17X (85+92)/2 ft) out of the total site area, sale consideration area is 17X(65 ½ +72 ½)/2 feet i.e. 1173 sq ft, Ward No.15, Harohalli, Kolar Nagara, belongs to Smt Sujathamma and bounded & as follows: East by - Remaining portion of Site No. 31, West by - Property belongs to Sri C S Ranganna , North by - National Highway, South by - Remaining portion of Site No. 28 & 29.

Property No. 4 - All the piece and parcel of the Industrial property bearing Plot No. 10-B, situated in Sy.No.44, situated at Tamaka Industrial Area, Tamaka Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District measuring East to West (18+38)/2 Mtrs and North to South (69+81)/2 Mtrs, totally measuring to 2026 Sq. Mtrs and building threon and bounded on: East by - Private Property, West by - Plot No.10A, North by - Kolar Bethamangala PWD Road, South by - Private Property

Details of Secured Debts - Details of secured debts:TLEMI/3. Total due **Rs.4,64,79,251/- (Rs. Four Crores Sixty Four Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty One Only)** as on 31.08.2018 with further interest and other cost.

Reserve Price – **Rs. 7,74,00,000/-**	EMD Amount – **Rs. 77,40,000/-**
Place of Auction, Date & Time	**SIR M. VISVESVARAYA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED Corporate Office: #109, Shankarmutt Road, Shankarpuram, Bangalore – 560 004. Date & Time – 23.07.2020 Thursday at 11.30 A.M.**

Other Terms and Condition:

1. For participation in the auction the intending bidder have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the reserve price of the property being cautioned deposit.
2. The property as described shall not be sold below the reserve price.
3. The successful bidder should pay 25% of the bid amount inclusive of EMD immediately on the same day in RTGS / DD to the Bank and the balance within 15 days from the date of auction, failing the amount already paid by him/her will be forfeited.
4. The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the Bank without any Prior Notice, If the successful bidder fails to adhere to terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.
5. The successful bidder shall bear all the legal/incidental expenses like stamp duty, Registration fee, local taxes and any other statutory dues etc.
6. The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof.
7. The property sold under AS IS WHERE IS CONDITIONS and terms stipulated under Securitization Act 2002. The authorized officer reserves his right to vary any of the terms and conditions of this notice of sale without prior notice at his discretion.
8. For inspection of the property or any further details the intending bidders may contact undersigned at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Co Operative Bank Limited, No.109, Shankarmutt Road, Shankarpuram, Bangalore – 560004 during office hours. Ph No. Sale officer: 8095340265, Senior Manager: 9449599915 , Vijayanagar Branch : 080-22956413/ 080-22956414.
9. Bidder should produce their ID & Address Proof while depositing the EMD.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 09.06.2020

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Sir M.Visvesvaraya Co-operative Bank Ltd

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COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SUNDAY 12.07.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar urged citizens to follow the three 'Ws' — watch your distance (maintain six-feet distance), wear masks in public and wash hands frequently.

880 NEW RECOVERIES

14,716 TOTAL RECOVERED

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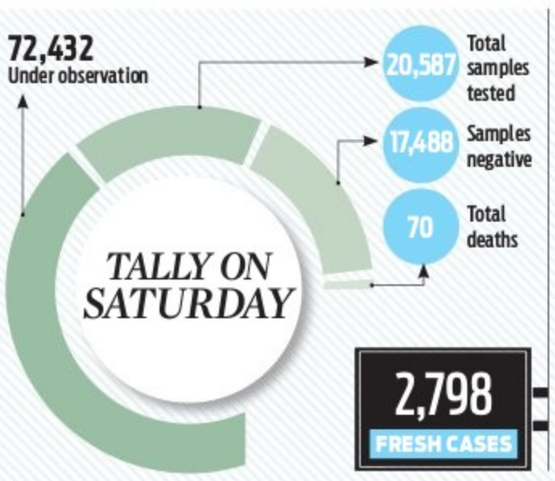
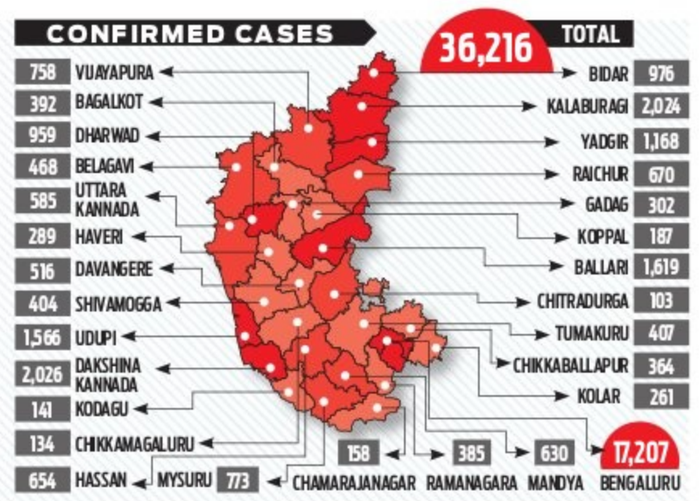
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





Health workers in personal protective equipment outside the Covid ward at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

DEATH ON A COVID BED: DOCS STRUGGLE TO COPE

Healthcare system will collapse soon, stay safe, stay indoors, they advise; Lockdown not used to upgrade facilities, they say

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

Watching a person die is nothing like they show you in the movies. There is no meaningful glance, no poignant last words, no symbolic tear. Once the drive to live is overwhelmed, a dying man settles into a sort of rhythmic gasping which becomes increasingly feeble. You may even hear the secretions pool in their throat, over the beeping monitors. This is a sight we instantly recognise and dread. It's difficult to tell at which point exactly they've crossed the proverbial veil. Some we allow to pass in peace, having exhausted all options. Others, we hold open the jaws of death for, to try and reach in and pull them back out. Sometimes it works. More often, we fail," are the words of a helpless resident doctor from the Emergency Room at St John's Hospital in Bengaluru on his Facebook post recently.

He is not alone. Hundreds of doctors working in Covid hospitals have been begging people to "stay at home" and prevent contracting the deadly disease. Doctors and nurses, or "Covid Warriors", are showered with petals and cheered upon by clapping from balconies. But in reality, they are going through a lot of pain, and making frantic calls to their loved ones to tell them to "stay safe and stay indoors".

"The life of so-called 'warriors' is not going good and we are upset that no one is noticing it. We are "saviours", but then isn't it an irony that these saviours are now seeing hundreds of lives going unsaved and it's we who are bidding goodbyes to all those whom we haven't been able to save," grieves a 40-year-old doctor, who has seen 12 people die without being able to do anything.

At first, the Covid uptick seemed subtle. But now, hospitals are filling up with patients, leaving hundreds of doctors "helpless" and in the line of fire from patient's relatives, the administration, health authorities and even the court and media.

"The protocols change very quickly, and what you would have done yesterday with a particular case is no longer valid today. It feels like you don't have time to adapt to one situation and you're already facing another. Going from a few dozen suspected cases to hundreds of confirmed cases and almost every second patient wanting oxygen or ventilator is overwhelming," said 38-year-old doctor from a Covid hospital in Jayanagar.

Dr Aditi Rao (name changed) at a government Covid hospital said as she stood in her protective gear, holding her phone in front of a 72-year-old woman's face so her daughter might see her one last time, she tried to look away respecting the moment. She could not help but overhear the daughter and over a dozen other family members weeping and saying, "Amma, don't go away. Please come back."

Dr Gangadhar, Director, Nimhans, says, "From symptoms of burnout, frustration to facing the ire of a patient's relatives, the pressure on them is manifold. We need to lessen their burden by being considerate. Public should remember doctors are human beings too and they are people with emotions too."

Doctors warn that the healthcare system will collapse very soon. "We had a good chance to prepare, to test, trace, hire doctors, nurses and source equipment, but nothing was done," said a senior cardiac surgeon from Jayadeva hospital.

The St John's resident doctor says, "Not even death is a release — mortuaries are full of bodies awaiting a swab report before they can be interred. Things are coming to a head. And this is why we are begging. Pleading on our goddamn knees. STAY AT HOME. Lockdown or not, curfew or not — keep yourselves safe. Wear a mask. Stay at home. The worst is yet to come, and we are hilariously underequipped to deal with it."

> From symptoms of burnout, frustration to facing the ire of a patient's relatives, the pressure on them is manifold. We need to lessen their burden by being considerate
> Dr Gangadhar, Director, Nimhans

> The protocols very change quickly, and what you would have done yesterday is no longer valid today. It feels like you don't have time to adapt to one situation
> Doctor at a Covid hospital in Jayanagar, Bengaluru

> Some patients allow to pass in peace. Others, we hold open the jaws of death for, to try and reach in and pull them back out. Some times it works. More often, we fail
> Emergency Room resident doctor, St John's Hopital

Chest X-rays can give results in just 10 minutes: Expert

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

HERE is some good news. Now, you can know whether you are Covid-19 positive or not in a jiffy.

The HCG Care Centre in Bengaluru has started using the chest X-ray method on a pilot basis. According to Dr Vishal Rao, member of the Covid consultative group and onco surgeon who initiated the project, X-rays can be used to screen Covid-19 patients which is cost effective and the results are given in 10 minutes.

Now, they have decided to expand it to pan Karnataka where all the districts can scale up and start using X-rays to detect early signs.

With the State carrying 20,000 tests a day, it has become difficult to give the results on time. Dr Rao started the pilot project of using X- rays for Covid-19 detection in Yelahanka on 1,000 ASHA workers and pourakarmikas. He told TNSE that the results were given to them in 10 minutes and all of them tested negative.

"Already there is a huge backlog of samples to be tested. With this method in place, people will be able to get results in no time and it will only cost them Rs 200," Dr Rao said.

> Many districts in the state have only one or two laboratories for sample testing. If they start using X-rays , they can test more people and even get results fast. The accuracy rate in the X-ray is more than 95%
> — Dr Vishal Rao, member of the Covid consultative group

A chest X-ray and analysis at HCG will cost Rs 250, while a Covid-19 test could be Rs 4,500 if a person goes directly to a private hospital or Rs ,2600 if the person is referred by a government hospital.

Dr Rao said that after the X-ray is done, an artificial intelligence system is used to analyse it, wherein a computerised algorithm will search in the suspicious area which will give the appropriate results.

"Right now, the DRDO has been helping us with AI. I have asked all the private hospitals in Bengaluru to start using X-ray for testing. Once they send the X-ray reports to us, we will give them results after we finish the AI analysis. Many districts in the State have only one or two laboratories for sample testing. If they start using X-rays , they can test more people and even get results fast. The accuracy rate in the X-ray is more than 95%," he said.

Recently he even showcased how the X-ray and tests work to Chief Minister B S Yeddiyurappa. "After I showcased it, the government is mulling about the project," he said.

Shops and other establishments remain shut on Bengaluru's SJP Road after it was listed as a containment zone, on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

SAD STATE

Patients rue poor hospital conditions in Hassan dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hassan

PATIENTS who were discharged from the designated Covid-19 hospital in Hassan have voiced several complaints regarding the problems they faced while they were being treated.

A 50-year-old who was recently-discharged from the hospital, alleged, on condition of anonymity, that there was no social distance maintained at the premises between patients. He also rued that there was no hot water to drink or bathe with. "Doctors mix up old and new patients by putting them all together in the same ward. All patients, regardless of condition, are made to use common toilets. Doctors only visit the ward during the time of admission," he said.

A relative of a patient alleged that health workers discriminated against patients by allowing outside food and providing some facilities to a few, but not to everyone.

However, brushing aside these complaints, district surgeon Dr Krishnamurthy said the hospital is providing facilities and treating patients as per government directions. "Despite requests, patients are not maintaining social distancing," he said, adding that health workers have been supervising wards by checking facilities periodically.

'Avoid 3 'Cs' - closed spaces, crowds, close contact'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN yet another record for the state, a total of 70 Covid-related deaths were registered on Saturday, taking the toll to 613. The number of cases were also high — 2,798 — shooting the total positives up to 36,216.

Of the 2,798 cases, Bengaluru Urban district alone recorded 1,533 cases. A majority of the deaths were SARI and ILI patients with contact tracing still underway, and four deaths were of asymptomatic patients. Apart from Bengaluru Urban's 23 fatalities, deaths were reported from Shivamogga, Raichur, Mysuru, Gadag, Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Chikkaballapura, Ballari, Hassan, Vijaypura and Tumakuru.

In better news, the state also saw a high number of discharges — 880. A total of 14,716 people have been discharged till date.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that rapid antigen tests were being distributed across districts, with 50,000 reserved for Bengaluru. He also said that people should avoid the three 'Cs'— Closed spaces with improper ventilation, crowds (of more than two people) and close-contact settings.

He also urged citizens to follow the three 'Ws' — watch your distance (maintain six-feet distance), wear masks in public and wash hands frequently. He added the state government is preparing itself to tackle the rising cases by organising adequate infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the state nodal officer stated that the rise in cases is due to the change in weather. "Influenza cases go up when the weather changes, similar to how Covid cases are going up now. Even when H1N1 was prevalent, we saw a similar rise in cases due to changing weather conditions."

Remdesivir runs dry, supplies to improve from Monday

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

REMDESIVIR, the newly launched antiviral drug for "restricted emergency use for Covid-19 patients in India" is in short supply in Karnataka; official sources told *TNSE*. The State government has so far received 384 vials of 'Covifor' from the Hetero Labs in Hyderabad for its Covid Care Centres. Some spokespersons of private hospitals said that there is "a bit of demand supply mismatch because the drug has recently been launched."

"There could be a short supply in other states as well because Remdesivir has been recently launched in the country and Hetero Labs had come out with the first batch of Covifor -- their brand of Remdesivir. Cipla has now released its production of Remdesivir under the brand name of Cipremi and Mylan Labs will shortly be coming out with their batch of the antiviral drug under the brand name Desrem," said an official source.

The antiviral drug, which is being used for a section of Covid-19 patients along with cortisteroid Dexamethasone and blood thinner or anti coagulants – Heparin or Enoxaparin — has yielded "positive results", said a specialist.

B Khanapure, Drug Controller, Karnataka, told TNSE that the supply of Remdesivir will improve from Monday. "We have been getting our supply of Covifor from Hetero Labs in Hyderabad through our Carry & Forwarding (C&F) agents here," he said. He added that he has issued directions to district drug controllers to keep a strict vigil on hoarding and misuse of the antiviral drug.

"Remdesivir is supplied only to hospitals and Covid care institutions. It cannot be sold in the open market. We will take strict action against hoarders and black marketeers," added Khanapure.

Hetero, Cipla and Mylan Labs are under licence from the American manufacturer of Remdesivir — Gilead Sciences. The Drug Controller General of India had approved its manufacture in June for "restricted emergency use for Covid-19 patients." The antiviral drug is said to cut down the recovery rate of the patients.

Ambulance drivers pick up a patient from their house in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

RWAs can charge citizens for mini, community-based CCCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE health and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Commissioners on Saturday said resident welfare associations can charge for mini community-based Covid care centres put up within the premises of gated communities and apartments, but it is better if no costs are levied.

Explaining the new quarantine rules to be followed and the formation of community-based CCCs, the commissioners, B H Anil Kumar (BBMP) and Pankaj Kumar Pandey (health), told RWAs through video-conferencing on Saturday, "Government-based CCCs are free of cost and hotels and hospitals are levying charges which have been decided by the government."

Kumar said, "We do not recommend that charges be levied, but if RWAs want they can recover the costs, but only bare minimum. However, we hope it is free. We will not interfere and we will not take any money."

They pointed out that all RWAs should follow the set guidelines and protocols listed by the government. The mini-CCCs should be treated as isolation centres of hospitals.

Kumar also told RWAs that they have to tie up with private agencies approved by the BBMP to dispose of biomedical waste. He asserted that pourakarmikas should not be allowed to handle the waste.

Pandey felt that CCCs are part of a community service and should not be charged. He clarified that the presence of doctors and paramedical staff round-the-clock at these centres is not necessary. "It is better if an RWA has a tie-up with a doctor or a hospital. If it is not available, they must contact government doctors," he added.

Pandey said that some hospitals have partnered with hotels for CCCs and they charge a fee. As per guidelines, five-star hotels can charge a maximum of Rs 12,000 per day (with taxes), three-star hotels Rs 10,000 and other budget hotels Rs 8,000. He asserted that no hospital can deny treatment and admission to any patient, Covid or non-Covid. Hospitals must admit patients if they even complain of breathing problems. Citizens must dial 108, the free ambulance service, 1912 or 14410 for any assistance or complaints.

Reacting to the suggestion of RWAs, Pandey said the government will talk to oxygen cylinder suppliers and firms to help facilitate supplies to mini-CCCs, if required.

Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, who returned to his residence Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad after a two-week stay at his farmhouse, held a review meeting on Agriculture on Saturday. He directed officials to provide Rythu Bandhu payments to all the farmers

GOLD SMUGGLING

CUSTOMS RAID FORMER IT SECRETARY'S FLAT

Sivasankar and Swapna Suresh discussed gold deals here

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

HARDLY a week after the seizure of 30kg gold at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, the probe into the sensational smuggling case has reached the flat taken on rent by Chief Minister's former principal secretary and IT secretary M Sivasankar.

The customs raided the flat near the Secretariat on Friday, the inspection lasting around one-and-a-half hours after Sarith P S told investigators that he and Swapna Suresh used to discuss gold deals there. The officers seized the visitors' register and the CCTV footage to verify whether the suspects had visited the flat. On Saturday, officers also questioned the caretaker and security guards at the residential complex.

Sivasankar was in 'Heather Towers' on Punnen Road near the Cantonment Gate of the Secretariat for the past three years. Security guards told sleuths that they had seen Sivasankar last on Monday.

Sources said the flat was misused by Swapna and Sarith, the two key suspects in the case, later following the connection with Sivasankar. The suspects also used this flat for the alleged murky deals related to gold smuggling.

Sivasankar told reporters on Saturday that he welcomes any probe and he did not want to comment more on this issue. "Let the probe go on. I can't say anything more at this moment," he said.

Sivasankar was removed from the post by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan following his alleged links with the suspect Swapna Suresh. There were reports that Sivasankar used to visit her apartment at Mudavanmugal in the city in the wee hours.

Youth Congress members take out a protest rally, demanding the resignation of Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan over the gold smuggling case, in Kochi on Saturday

WHEN CITY GOES EMPTY

With Covid-19 cases rising in Tamil Nadu and Chennai being a hotspot, the capital continues to wear a deserted look. Tamil Nadu records 3,965 fresh cases bringing the state tally to 1,34,226 | R SATISH BABU

Lemons too tangy for growers this season

ASHWINI M SRIPAD & MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bengaluru/Vijayapura

LEMONS, like most other fruits and vegetables, have turned bitter for Karnataka growers, as the Covid pandemic has beaten down the price to 20-30 paise per piece. The state government, which has come out with relief packages for several other farmers, has not announced any succour to these farmers.

Lemons are grown in Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Bagalkot and some parts of South Karnataka. The annual produce from the three districts is 1.25 lakh tonnes, with a few thousand tonnes from the rest of the state. Last year, over 500 farmers in about 2,000 hectares stopped lemon cultivation because of drought and low prices.

Ashok, a farmer from a village in Sindagi taluk of Vijayapura, said he grows lemon in a 2.5 acre land and has about 220 plants. "Every week, I get some 20 bags of lemons and each bag contain 1,000 to 1,200 fruits. But wholesalers pay only Rs 300-400 per bag which is very low. How can I take care of the transportation and pay wagers to labourers," he asked.

Chandrama Basappa from Borgi village in Vijayapura said over the last few months, he sold 100 bags and got just Rs 10,000. But last summer was good for him as he sold the produce at Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 per bag.

Ayubh Bhagwan, who has been trading in lemons over the last 25 years, said, "The lemon price has never been this low in the last 20 years. That is because the demand has gone down by 60 per cent since the pandemic broke out. Exports too have hit the bottom as there has been absolutely no demand from the Gulf and European countries. But since Unlock 1.0, we are getting some orders from Nepal and Bangladesh and a few states in North India."

Santosh Inamdar, Deputy Director of Department of Horticulture, said, "The price is low because the consumption is low. Lemons are largely supplied to the hotel industry. Though hotels, dhabas and other small eateries are open, the customer inflow is very poor. Exports have been nil and some produce is being transported via road to Delhi, Punjab, Kolkata, Gujarat and other states. We have brought this to the notice of District Minister Shashikala Jolle. We will prepare a report on losses faced by growers and submit it to the government. There has been no support price or relief package for these growers yet."

Horticulture Secretary Rajendra Kumar Kataria said, "During the lockdown, we could not transport the produce. The situation has improved now as mandis are open. Farmers are suffering because there have been no exports. Earlier consignments would be sent as cargo on passenger flights to other countries. But now there are no international flights."

He added that an assessment report is being prepared and the department will take action once it is ready.

"The government should connect growers with self-help groups and food processing industries, which make jams, juices and pickles. June to August is the season for lemons and excess produce should be sent to these industries," said former Additional Director (Fruits) S V Hittalamani.

Govt announces support price for sericulture farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government has come to the aid of sericulture farmers, who have been badly hit by the Covid pandemic, and announced a support price of Rs 50 per kilogram of silk cocoons till the market improves.

The price of cocoons had fallen from Rs 350-500 per kg to Rs 270-Rs 250 per kg. While people are paying twice the amount for silkworm eggs, cocoons are selling at a highly discounted price. Recently, sericulture farmers had approached concerned Minister Narayana Gowda, who directed officials to release Rs 10 crore towards support price. It will be with effect from April 1 this year. The minister has also increased the loan amount silk reelers can avail to Rs 2 lakh.

I have skill to work as a techie again, says Anu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A techie or a vendor—both have to work hard. While working in a software firm needs mental agility, selling vegetables is more to do with physical work. It depends on our lifestyle. I am selling vegetables to support my parents. Once things gets better, I have the talent and skills to work again as a software engineer,'' Anu says with confidence.

"None of my family members went to college. It was my father's dream to make me an engineer. My parents have struggled to give good education to me and my sister. It is now my turn to take care of them," she says.

Itolizumab has 7-year proven track record of safety: Kiran Shaw

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson, Biocon, said, "This positions India among the leading global innovators in their efforts to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. The randomised control trial indicated that all the patients treated with Itolizumab (ALZUMAb®) responded positively and recovered. The control arm that did not receive Itolizumab unfortunately had deaths. Itolizumab is now approved for the treatment of CRS in patients with moderate to severe ARDS due to Covid-19. We plan to take this therapy to other parts of the world impacted by the pandemic... The data is compelling and I am confident that this 'first-in-class' biologic will save lives and help reduce the mortality rate in our country."

She said ALZUMAb has a seven-year proven track record of safety as doctors in India have been prescribing it to treat acute psoriasis and ensure a better quality of life for patients and "now we will be able to save many critically ill Covid-19 patients with our drug".

Dr Mohan Joshi, Dean, BYL Nair Hospital, Mumbai, said, "In our hospital, we have tried Itolizumab in many Covid-19 patients with moderate to severe ARDS and found significant improvement in clinical, radiological and inflammatory markers. These outcomes were quite evident with one dose of Itolizumab when administered before the 'cytokine storm' set in. Most of the patients have tolerated the drug well. Given the growing surge of Covid-19 cases, I would recommend use of Itolizumab in moderate to severe complications in COVID-19."

Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Director, Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi, said, "In the time of this Covid-19 pandemic, we do not have any specific treatment for patients who are losing the fight against the disease despite best supportive care. Lok Nayak Hospital was one of the sites of the study wherein we used Itolizumab to treat eight patients. These patients did extremely well even with a single dose".

As on Saturday evening, India has more than 2,89,656 documented active coronavirus infections and over 22,589 deaths.

Hundreds lose jobs as BEML subsidiary shuts its doors

B THIPPERUDRAPPA @Chikkamagaluru

A 57-year-old steel casting unit at Tarikere in Chikkamagaluru, a subsidiary unit of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), is all set to shut down, leaving hundreds of its employees in the lurch.

The Union Ministry of Defence, in its letter, intimated that it has accorded in-principle approval for the closure of Vignyan Industries Limited (VIL), triggering anxiety and uncertainty among its employees. The MoD has requested BEML to initiate the closure in accordance with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines.

In 1963, Duggappa, an engineer in the Bhadravathy Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) with his friend Somshekarappa, started the company in Tarikere, using crowdfunding and personal investments. It was named Vigyan Industries Ltd in 1966.

Employees stand outside VIL gate

VIL was manufacturing steel parts and spare equipment for the Railways and materials required in engineering industries.

VIL Mazdoor Sangha secretary GS Satyanarayan said those who invested lakhs of rupees will be on the street and lives of regular and contractual workers will be in jeopardy. Regular workers should be transferred to BEML, he demanded.

VIL Administrative Officer Rajashekaran said all companies running under BEML, including VIL, are being closed as per government's order and it is contemplated to give suitable compensation to the employees.

'Members of the Bar must behave responsibly'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am spending six hours every day reading emails. Your email (received earlier this week), is fit to initiate contempt proceedings against you. You sent an email without mentioning the Filing Registration number and requested a hearing, but we replied to that. Still, you responded by saying 'You are not understanding anything'. Many lawyers are unlikely to say so, but you did. The registry is being blamed for no reason. You have been asked to appear so that we can compliment you," Justice Oka said, sarcastically.

The advocate in question apologised to the court, saying that his junior, who was not well-versed in English, had replied to the email.

Justice Oka then said, "I intend to publish some of the emails sent to me after the pandemic (when the situation returns to normal). If your junior doesn't know English, you should not allow him to send an email."

Justice Oka also reportedly took exception to "nasty emails" that advocates were sending, including to his personal email account.

During the hearing of a PIL on July 9, the Chief Justice said the flood of emails, including multiple ones on the same case, added to the court's difficulty in functioning while the pandemic brought up its own set of issues.

"Members of the Bar must behave responsibly. Once a reply has been sent, you must not send repeated emails. If we receive an email for one that has already been replied to, we may have to impose a cost of Rs 1 lakh, payable to the Chief Minister's Covid Relief Fund, and take up the matter for hearing," Justice Oka told an advocate on July 9, and added that the court was functioning with only a quarter of its staff.

During a hearing on Friday, Chief Justice Oka said that 51 judicial officers and 98 staff are in home quarantine and 18 people have tested positive. Thirty court complexes across the state had to be closed for sanitisation and were reopened after a day or two, he added.

EXPRESS READ

Leopard killed, accused nabbed within 24 hours

Bengaluru: A female leopard was poisoned to death in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve (NTR) on Friday and forest officials arrested the accused within 24 hours. The forest officials found the dead leopard on an agricultural field in the forest. "Locals informed us of the dead leopard and reports showed it was poisoned. While searching the house of a local, Machegowda (65), chemicals and poisonous substances were found. All the inmates in the house were absconding," NTR Director Mahesh told TNSE. Mache Gowda was arrested later, while the search is on for his son. This is the first incident at NTR since the beginning of this year where a schedule-1 carnivore has been poisoned to death, which amounts to hunting under Wildlife Protection Act 1972. - **Bosky Khanna**

'Lockdown will help break chain'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CM B S Yediyurappa, who is currently in home quarantine after three people working at his residence tested positive, has appealed to people to stay home, wear masks and maintain social distancing when they step out to buy essentials. The lockdown, Medical Education Minister Sudhakar said, will help break the chain of virus transmission.

"We need to break this chain again and our human resources, which is fatigued over the past four-and-half months, needs a fresh lease of life with renewed enthusiasm," he said.

Initially, the government was not keen on resorting to another lockdown and had adopted a strategy to fight the virus while, at the same time, allowing economic activities. It took the decision after the sudden surge in the numbers and also a majority of the ministers, who were given charge of eight zones in the city, too favoured a lockdown to bring the situation under control. "We discussed the issue over the last two days and are of the firm belief that the lockdown will help bring down the numbers", Revenue Minister R Ashok told *TNIE*.

After initially managing Covid-19 well with the state, taking 65 days from its first case reported on March 8 to reach the 1,000-mark on May 12, the state's tally was 36,216 on Saturday with over 1,000 cases consistently being added every day since July 2. Moreover, while the positivity rate has been rising steadily since July 5, from 3.32 per cent to 4.52 per cent on July 11, the recovery rate has been dropping in the same period from 41.94 per cent to 40.63 per cent.

The one week lockdown is likely to give time to the government to further ramp up facilities and address shortcomings to effectively tackle the crisis.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PHE., MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

No. CE/PHE/TB:59/2019-20/07 Dated the 2nd July 2020

INVITATION TO BID

Meghalaya PHED invites Sealed Tenders in Two Parts Bid Systems for Construction of Mustem Water Supply Scheme in West Jaintia Hills District from Reputed Companies / Registered Class-I Contractors of PHE Department, Meghalaya having past experiences in executing water supply systems and having required expertise and resources at their **disposal on Turnkey Basis inclusive Supply and fittings of various Pipes & Fittings.**

Bidding Document and other details will be available at the Website of PHED i.e. **http://megphed.gov.in** from 10.07.2020. Last date for submission of Bidding Documents is upto 1:00 PM on 14.08.2020.

Sd/-
Addl.Chief Engineer,PHE.,
Zone-III, Meghalaya, Shillong.

MIPR No. 459
dt. 10/7/2020

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. . Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-17/2612/2020-21 Date:10.07.2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender for Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works **(1).** Formation of Industrial Sub Layout including Asphalting of 18M wide road, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage, Utility Duct & Chain Link Fencing Work & Water Supply Pipeline at Vemgal Industrial Area, Kolar District. **(2).** Formation of Industrial Sub Layout in plot No.658 including Asphalting of 18M wide road, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Compound Wall, Storm Water Drain, Retaining Wall, Rain Water Harvesting & HDPE Dual Water supply Pipe line at Vasanthanarasapura 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Tumkuru Taluk, Tumkuru District. **(3).** Formation of Industrial Layout including Asphalting of 24m wide roads & 18m wide roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Utility Ducts, Chain link Fencing, OHT, Sump, GLSR, Raising Main, Twin Quarters & Pump House at Chikkahulluru Village, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(4).** Formation of Industrial Sub Layout in plot No.658 including Asphalting of 30m wide road, 18M wide road, 12m wide road, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Storm Water Drain, Chainlink Fencing, Retaining Wall, Rain Water Harvesting, OHT & HDPE Dual Water supply Pipe line at Vasanthanarasapura 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Tumkuru Taluk, Tumkuru District. **(5).** Formation of Industrial Layout including Asphalting of 24m wide roads & 18m wide roads, Construction of RCC Drains, Compound Wall, OHT, GLSR, Water Supply Pipeline at Kambalipura Village, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.08.2020 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/2020-21

The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes

Tony Blair

DATA IS THE NEW OIL...ALSO THE NEW SNAKE OIL

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
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PUNDITRY has it that what gets measured gets managed. In the post pandemic world though measurement is massaged and managed. Perceptions of political success apparently depends on comparative failures, doing well depends on others doing badly. Measures therefore are twisted, tortured and tabulated to testify triumph. Data is the new oil. It is also the new snake oil.

This week, US President Donald Trump illustrated the phenomenon with an epic tweet. "For the 1/100th time, the reason we show so many Cases, compared to other countries that haven't done nearly as well as we have, is that our TESTING is much bigger and better. We have tested 40,000,000 people. If we did 20,000,000 instead, Cases would be half, etc. NOT REPORTED!"

The reality is that tests only throw up what is there...that is the level of transmission and infection present at the given time in any geography. Tests are not the problem, they are a part of the solutions. The tweet is reminiscent of 'Ravens Paradox', a paradox presented by Carl Gustav Hempel in the 1940s on what constitutes as evidence for a given conclusion. The saga of false positives can be traced back to the onset of the pandemic, in China's denials and deception on the Wuhan Virus followed by the dereliction of duty of the WHO which said it found "no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel #coronavirus" and delayed till March 11 the decision to declare a global pandemic.

The quarantine of logic and counterfactuals is not unique to the United States. India now has now crossed the 800,000-mark and is heading for the million milestone. Politicos who normally stick to absolute and gross numbers have figured out that normalising case count to population or case per million alters the optics. The United States which tops the table has 9,100 cases per million persons, Brazil which is on second spot has just over 8,000 per million and Russia which is fourth on the table has 4,900 cases per million. India, in contrast, has just 575 cases per million.

What is left unsaid in the comparison is the low level of testing or the ratio of tests per million persons. Testing in the United States is around 124,000 per million, in Brazil it is over 21.150 per million. In India, testing currently hovers at 8,000 per million — that is, 11.02 million tests in a country with over 1,350 million people. The picture worsens at the state level. As per the Niti Aayog data, testing in ten large states is lower than the national average — Bihar which saw the return of 25 million migrant workers has conducted 2,100 tests per million, Telangana is at 2,637 per million and Uttar Pradesh around 3,800 tests per million. Many state governments harboured the notion of 'lower testing means lower infection', curtailed testing and even declared victory triggering rah-rah rhetoric.

The misplaced notion though is subject to the statute of limitations. Reality dawns with the lifting of the lockdown. While Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi lead the case count and account for over half the cases, the true extent of transmission in states such as Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal is showing up even with incremental rise in testing.

Politicians have expanded their tool kit and frequently present a dip as a trend. On June 18, West Bengal declared 515 recoveries and 391 new cases. CM Mamata Banerjee cited this as a positive. On July 10, the state reported 1,198 new cases. The success in containing infections in Mumbai's Dharavi deserves plaudits but it was generalised. On Friday, Maharashtra announced the third lockdown of industrial hubs Thane, Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad as it recorded over 7,800 new cases. This is not unique to Indian politicos, many elsewhere have declared triumph on to find the facts catching up.

A factoid frequently cited as a positive is the ratio of recovered persons to total infected – nearly 5 lakh of the 8 lakh infected have recovered. It is true that India has a better rate of recovery among those infected and this is partly explained by the younger demography. It is also true that the death toll has been low at barely 16 per million. Globally, fatality rates fluctuate with variables — particularly with age of population, on what is called comorbidity or pre-existing conditions of those infected. Calculation of fatality rate presupposes full registration of deaths and the cause, and this is a known unknown in India.

Conditions for comparisons though must be comparable — that is registration of deaths and the cause. Record keeping in India though is a known unknown. A 2019 Home Ministry report has observed that analysis of state-level data reveals that 21.9 per cent or one of five deaths were simply not registered. It gets worse. A report of the Registrar General of India on reporting of deaths places the percentage of medically certified deaths to total registered deaths at 22 per cent — effectively the cause of death in nearly eight of ten cases is not known or at least not registered.

The virus has persistently defied definition and this has triggered hypotheses on failures and of successes. To paraphrase the Bard in Julius Caesar, politicians have and will peddle snake oil, in the hope that people will willingly believe what they wish to be true.

WHY NORTH AND SOUTH DO NOT MEET

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

PARDON my parochialism (or is it realism?) but I do feel that north and south are different and never the twain shall meet. It is the Aryan concepts that make things complicated. See what Manusmriti (2nd century BCE?) says: "From the eastern sea to the western sea, the area in between the two mountains [presumably the Himalayas and the Vindhyas] is what wise men call the land of the Aryas... Beyond it is the country of the barbarians."

The view that those who are not Aryans are barbarians, is barbarian. It is that view that sustains the idea of northern superiority. In fact, in cultural and intellectual terms, the Dravidians have a maturity that enables them to benefit from it, without flaunting it to claim superiority over others. Yes, the north is north and the south is south.

New light is shed on this old topic by Early Indians. Author Tony Joseph uses new data made available by advances of DNA analysis technology. The "new hypothesis" validates the old hypothesis but in a different way. According to the new data, there was no large-scale migration to India during the last 40,000 years or so. Rather "there were two very ancient populations, one located in north India and the other in south India. All of today's populations descended from the mixing of these two groups, technically given the tags Ancestral North Indian and Ancestral South Indian." ANI has Caucasian roots while ASI, in all likelihood, migrated from Africa via the southern route 50,000 years ago.

History sustains the north-south divide. Indus valley/Harappan civilisation was Dravidian and it moved south following the Aryan invasion. The phrase "Aryan invasion" is anathema to the politicians of the north. They want us to believe that Aryans came from Thoothukudi and thereabouts. What is the use of history if it does not serve politicians?

The Vedas are projected as the foundations of Indian civilisation. Anything that points to the possibility of a civilisation before the Vedas would therefore be a body blow to Hindutva theories of India. Ironically, Rigveda itself describes how the Aryans clashed with the Dasyus to get control of the land. Who were the Dasyus who were in control of the land before the Aryans came? Tony Joseph's chapter "The First Indians" begins with the explanation: "How a bunch of out of Africa migrants found their way to India, dealt with their evolutionary cousins ... made this land their own and became the largest human population on earth." He has an Appendix that explains how migration from Eurasian Steppes changed the demography in a region extending from Europe to South Asia. And yet, "there are some who insist that the story of the Aryan invasion is a vast conspiracy."

Actually this whole thing is tied to, and sustained by, the north-south dichotomy that governs life in India. The BJP is perceived as a north Indian party. (Its foothold in Karnataka is seen as an aberration.) Its cultural essence is Hindi. To that extent, its appeal to the Dravidian, non-Hindi south will remain limited.

> E V Ramasamy developed a whole philosophy on Ramayana being a vehicle for northern cultural domination. That notion is unlikely to change as long as Ayodhya is central to the Rama story. And, don't forget, Ravana is seen as a southerner and as a hero.

How can the alienation disappear when even our epics appear in variations that suit linguistic differences? The north's favourite Ramayana Tulsidas' Ramacharitmanas doesn't do well anywhere in the south. It is Kamba Ramayanam in Tamil Nadu, Dwipad Ramayanam in Telugu desam, Torava Ramayana in Kannada desa and Adhyatma Ramayanam in Malayala bhasha. Poor Valmiki is drowned in his variations.

How do we react to a sentence like: "The Aryan race flourished in India as agriculturists and as conquerors of the aboriginal races." Or, "the civilised race conquered the whole country from the barbarians." Or, even the claim that the Aryan conquerors went west, settled down in Iran and composed the Zend Avesta. These were theories propounded even by renowned scholars like Romesh Dutt. But they make no sense when they ignore the inherent preconceptions in terms like barbarians.

E V Ramasamy developed a whole philosophy on Ramayana being a vehicle for northern cultural domination. That notion is unlikely to change as long as Ayodhya is central to the Rama story. And, don't forget, Ravana is seen as a southerner and as a hero. This could be a game that no one wins in the end. In fact, it can be a game in which there are only losers. Strong enough reason to pay special attention to Tony Joseph's exhortation: "We are all Indians. And we are all migrants."

ETHICS OF ENCOUNTER ENERGISE UP CRIMESCAPE

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

IN the heartland's badlands where crime writes the curriculum, caste is the syllabus and murder writes the chapters, the police write the exams. They get lessons in the Indian Penal Code from their criminal and political classmates. On Friday morning, ganglord and caste captain Vikas Dubey failed the murder lesson. He was shot dead by Uttar Pradesh cops who were taking him back to his criminal Patal Lok. Dubey, warned by police stooges of an impending raid, had gunned down eight cops the previous week. The UP Police was rudely shaken out of its stupor of caste camaraderie and political patronage by the slaughter of their own. Half a dozen of Dubey's associates encountered police bullets. The template was the same adopted by police forces everywhere: gangster is caught, taken in a police vehicle, vehicle stalls or meets with an accident, gangster seizes policeman's pistol and fires at cops who gun him down in self-defence. Despite procedural and legal holes in the narrative, public mood was overwhelmingly in favour of the state.

The liberal furore over Dubey's death has reignited the debate over the politician-police-criminal nexus, not just in Uttar Pradesh but also in other parts of India. Dubey wasn't a dilettante desperado. He represented a powerful criminal class that enjoys social, political and community legitimacy and endorsement, thanks to their utility to politicians and police. Even after being booked in several murder cases, he had been out on bail. His house was a criminal democracy—a regal rendezvous for the rich, powerful and the poor alike. Since caste is the supreme subtext of UP's politics and society, Dubey was the uncrowned maharaja of the middle and lower class Brahmin community in Kanpur and around. It's no coincidence that the majority of his victims and aides killed by cops and cops he slaughtered were from the same community. Predictably, the political cacophony over Dubey's thuggish collusion with the law exposed the region's ignoble and incapacitated law and order machinery.

With the no-nonsense CM Yogi Adityanath leading from the front, trigger-happy goons were expected to crawl back into their hideouts. But the state's faction and caste-ridden police force and bureaucracy are infected by a perpetual predilection — the lust for power and crippling their opponents. Caste, like in Dubey's case, is the murderous mosaic of the encounter environment. Since Yogi is a Thakur, a campaign against his government alleging persecution of Brahmins and other castes which challenge the establishment has gained traction. The heartland has a long history of heartless villains who play politics with blood and bullets. In fact, the rise of the political dons began in the early 1980s when caste leaders became instruments to acquire power and wield weapons to silence foes. In February 1981, Bandit Queen Phoolan Devi mowed down 20 upper caste persons in Behmai village, barely 50 km from Kanpur. It forced the then CM VP Singh to resign.

Singh was the first CM to back encounter killings. The police shot down over 50 criminals during his short tenure. A case was filed in the Supreme Court, which promptly ordered a judicial inquiry. Surprisingly, 40 years after the massacre none of the 39 accused have been convicted. While 35 individuals related to the episode including Phoolan Devi have died, the relatives of the victims are awaiting justice. Phoolan became an icon and was awarded a Lok Sabha seat by the Samajwadi Party in 1996 following her release from jail. In a twist of caste karma, she was slain in 2001.

Between 1980 and 2000, local dons with community and caste credentials were chosen to mobilise voters in favour of various parties. Since the Congress was considered the party of upper castes like Brahmins and Thakurs, dons like Hari Shankar Tiwary became coveted caste influencers in Eastern UP. Not only could he sway the tide of victory, he became a lawmaker himself exemplifying the transition of the criminal to legitimate leadership. During the mid-1990s, UP was polarised by the Ram Mandir issue, which saw the emergence of mainstream Muslim gangster netas like Atiq Ahmed and Mukhtar Ansari. They were the darlings of both BSP and SP as vote swingers. Numerous cases of arson, murder and other transgressions have been registered against them. Virender Shahi, another Thakur don from Eastern UP, faced police ire, too. Strangely, even after four decades none of them have been convicted. Some of them even managed to shift from UP jails after Yogi became the chief minister.

> The monk from Gorakhpur flaunts his commitment to eliminate criminals who abhor reform. He has given the authorities full freedom to go after gangsters. Bolstered by his unconditional support, cops boast about successful and lethal action against criminals.

The monk from Gorakhpur flaunts his commitment to eliminate criminals who abhor reform. He has given the authorities full freedom to go after gangsters. Bolstered by his unconditional support, cops boast about successful and lethal action against criminals. Last year when former UP chief minister Mayawati challenged the Yogi administration over the worsening law and order situation, the police responded in an equally harsh tone. After Hyderabad police killed in an encounter all four men accused in the gang rape and murder of a 26-year old veterinarian, Mayawati tweeted on December 6: "Crimes against women are on the rise in Uttar Pradesh, but the state government is sleeping. Police here and also in Delhi should take inspiration from Hyderabad Police, but unfortunately here criminals are treated like state guests, there is jungle raj in UP right now." Within a short time UP police tweeted: "The figures speak for themselves. Jungle Raj is a thing of the past. No longer now. 103 criminals killed and 1859 injured in 5178 police engagements in the last more than 2 years. 17745 criminals surrendered or cancelled their own bails to go to jail. Hardly state guests."

Yogi has the full blessing of the Central leadership. Addressing a rally last year, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Till the time the SP and the BSP ruled the state, criminals would roam freely. But, after Yogi Adityanath assumed office, criminals are seen moving with a 'patta' (placard) reading 'arrest us but don't do encounter'." However for the Chief Minister, Dubey's ends is a golden opportunity to squidge an unholy culture of shoot and scoot and restore fear and respect for law. Otherwise, many more Dubeys, Ahmeds will sprout all over the state like they did in the past.

Yogi's ill-wishers constantly allege that he targets only non-Thakurs, a charge he strongly refutes. According to the police, many omnipotent Thakur legislators have been sent to jail after being caught and convicted for serious offences. Yogi is unflappably unapologetic about his relentless law and order strategy. With a corrupt investigative machinery and unresponsive judiciary forcing conviction rates to plummet, the system has found its own methods to deal with those who kill at will. Liberals all over the world are rattled by the use of lethal deadly police force while forgetting that silenced voices too have the right to live with dignity. Criminals can't be allowed to enjoy the latitude of luxury as they murder and maim. Dogmas are contingent on the situation. Might is right gains credibility when used in favour of the mundane masses and not to defend maestros of murder.

QUOTE CORNER

As we are experiencing firsthand, you cannot fight the pandemic with lies and disinformation any more than you can fight it with hate or incitement to hatred. The limits of populism and denial of basic truths are being laid bare

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor

It's been profoundly moving for me... to continue to add my voice to those across the world who grieve for the families of those killed. It's (Srebrenica massacre) brazen reminder of the terrible cost to all of us when we turn our backs on our shared humanities

Bill Clinton, former US president

The ruling by the Turkish Council of State to overturn one of modern Turkey's landmark decisions and President Erdogan's decision to place the monument under the management of the Religious Affairs Presidency is regrettable

Josep Borrell, European Union's foreign policy chief

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Don't alter history

Those who argue and claim that Hagia Sophia was the personal property of Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II must remember that he did not build the structure but only conquered it. It is unfair to sweep under the carpet the historical fact that it was built under Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's controversial decision to turn the iconic museum into a mosque is in blatant and flagrant violations of accepted international conventions and order, which could lead to greater divisions. This will make Mustafa Kemah Ataturk turn in his grave.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Crack down on smugglers

The smuggling incident allegedly involving UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram shows how ingenious the smugglers are. Customs have found that during last six months alone the same smugglers have smuggled gold seven times under diplomatic guise! Could terrorism be getting funded? That's the gravest issue. With smuggling accounting for a third of the country's gold demand, the revenue loss is also huge. It is disheartening to note that we have not yet devised a strategy to tackle smuggling effectively. It's only after several successful bids that a smuggler gets caught in our airports, that too on a tip-off. The Centre should stop being so lackadaisical in the matter.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Peace in neighbourhood

This has reference to the news "India and China should pursue win-win situation, says envoy". It is irrefutable that China had provoked India having attacked and we retaliated. The Centre had to face criticisms from the opposition that India did not pay China by an equal coin. The current initiative by China for a truce and disengagement indicate that anguish and anger will never win a battle. It seems China tested the waters and having observed the support extended by other countries who know that India never coveted for land of its neighbours. China felt subdued by our resilence to its provocation. It is no exaggeration to recall that India adhered to what Mahatma Gandhi said, "To lose patience is to lose the battle."

S Arjun Prasanna, Bengaluru

Fake news vs paid news

Comparison of fake news and paid news is subjective. The question of which is worse depends on the underlying intention. Some fake news may be innocuous and not with malicious intentions. The damage it can do, if any, may be short-lived. But paid news has wider implications. It hides facts and brainwashes people to change their way of thinking. So it can be argued that the latter is worse. When a media house is bought over, it dishes out paid news perpetually.

Captain Raju Mathai, Kochi

Yeoman's service

In this pandemic, it is highly appreciable that a social worker in Assam is helping youngsters, who were left without jobs or shelter because of the coronavirus lockdown, create livelihood opportunities back home by setting up fish farms. Parikshit Dutta has trained at least 60 young men in pisciculture and helped them set up fisheries. Through Dutta's attempts many people are getting opportunities to arrange their livelihood and survival. Hopefully it will continue to grow.

M N Qasmi, Calcutta

A dangerous trend

A hard-core criminal has no place in a civilised society, and Vikas Dubey is no exception. However, the manner in which the gangster was 'punished' deserves condemnation. The police version that they shot him dead when he had tried to snatch a gun and escape has more to it than what meets the eye. If police start delivering 'instant justice', there is every possibility of the uniformed men misusing their powers, as had happened in the Sathankulam case. The unholy nexus between politicians and criminals is the crux of the matter.

P G Menon, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Why is PM so scared of disclosing the names of those who donated money to him for PMCares?

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
First, no audit by CAG, then RTIs on this are refused, and now this. India cares about how its money is used. #PMCaresFund

Smriti Z Irani @smritiirani
Shravan Hegde develops ZedShare App to share videos, pics, docus via mobile, a fine example of atmaNirbharBharat

A medic sorts samples for rapid antigen testing in New Delhi | PTI

Covid symptoms persist after recovery: Study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

An overwhelming majority of patients who have recovered from Covid-19 continue to report symptoms. According to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 87.4 per cent of recovered patients reported persistence of at least one symptom, particularly fatigue and dyspnea (difficult or laboured breathing) even after two months of being discharged from the hospital and very few patients were symptom-free.

The study, 'Persistent Symptoms in Patients After Acute Covid-19', concludes that clinicians and researchers have focused on the acute phase of the disease, but continued monitoring after discharge for long-lasting effects is needed. In the waning phase of the pandemic in Italy, beginning on April 21, the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS in Rome established a post-outpatient service for individuals discharged from the hospital after recovery.

All patients who met the World Health Organisation criteria for discontinuation of quarantine (no fever for three consecutive days, improvement in other symptoms and two negative test results) were followed up. From April 21 to May 29, 179 patients aged between 19 and 84 years were potentially eligible for the follow-up post-acute care assessment, of which 53 (37%) were women.

During hospitalization, 72.7 per cent participants had evidence of interstitial pneumonia. The mean length of hospital stay was 13.5 days; 21 patients (15%) received non-invasive ventilation and 7 (5%) received invasive ventilation.

"Patients were assessed a mean of 60.3 days after onset of the first symptom; at the time of the evaluation, only 18 (12.6%) were completely free of any Covid-19 related symptom, while 32 per cent had one or two symptoms and 55 per cent had three or more," says the study published on July 9. No patient, however, had fever or any signs or symptoms of acute illness, it added.

The study further shows worsened quality of life was observed among 44.1 per cent of patients and a high proportion of individuals still reported fatigue (53.1%), dyspnea (43.4%), joint pain, (27.3%) and chest pain (21.7%).

Needless hospitalisation leading to bed shortage, says study

Majority of patients had no symptoms, less than 5% had severe respiratory issues

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@ New Delhi

THE largest cohort study of Covid-19 patients in India so far, carried out in Kota, may have an explanation for why hospitals in cities seeing a surge in cases are getting overwhelmed and running out of beds.

The study documented details related to 406 patients in the Government Medical College, Kota, and hospitals associated with it. It has revealed that a majority of the patients, 244, who were hospitalised, had no symptoms at all and less than 5 per cent had severe respiratory issues requiring ICU or mechanical ventilation.

Experts, including those guiding the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's response to the pandemic, have been saying that there are unnecessary hospitalisations, leaving those Covid-19 patients who are really in need of medical care in the lurch.

A cohort study analyses a group of people with common features without any interventional trial. The study titled 'Covid 19: Clinical Profile, Radiological Presentation, Prognostic Predictors, Complications and Outcome: A Perspective from the Indian Subcontinent,' published in the Journal of The Association of Physicians of India, said "that the disease was milder as compared to other regional reports especially from foreign countries."

It said of the 406 patients enrolled for the study, only 4.4% patients required ICU or ventilators, eight of whom who died. The rest with symptoms were treated with standard therapies or oxygen in some cases and most of them recovered within six days on an average.

The study, which documented case details from April 5 to June 2, also underscored that shortness of breath and chest pain was not common but was usually associated with ICU admission or requirement for oxygen inhalation.

On April 28, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had recommended that confirmed Covid-19 cases with mild or no symptoms can opt for home isolation under certain conditions but the study indicates that in most states there have been unnecessary hospitalisations happening.

"This paper confirms my suspicion that Indian hospitals are busy admitting a large number of asymptomatic patients," said epidemiologist Dr Jammi N Rao, who has worked with the Indian Council of Medical Research in Hyderabad and the National Health Service in the UK.

During the peak in Delhi and Mumbai and now in cities such as Bengaluru, there have been numerous reports of serious patients struggling to secure hospital beds.

Rao's views were echoed by a senior member of the operations research group of the National Covid-19 Task Force.

"We have been worried about it and the main concern is that the situation could be worse off in private hospitals which would be deliberating taking on mild cases for commercial reasons. Hospitals may also be taking advantage of panicked patients," said the member who did not want to be quoted.

"Therefore there is a need to rigorously enforce home isolation of full households to ease pressure on hospital bed capacity."

Meanwhile, the study on Kota, which had seen a major outbreak in April and May, said only 210 patients had a history of contact with positive patients while only 16 had a history of travel to disease hotspots and/or attending mass gatherings, indicating that the majority picked it from the community.

Nearly 65 per cent of the patients were brought to the hospitals by the rapid response teams deployed for contact tracing and 79 patients had associated comorbidity, most commonly hypertension closely followed by diabetes mellitus-2.

Those symptomatic at the time of presentation had fever, dry cough and body ache but some patients also had complaints suggestive of rhinitis, headache, nausea, vomiting and occasionally diarrhoea. Researchers also said that every Covid-19 positive patient was treated with anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and antibiotic azithromycin, barring those who had any contraindications or side effects.

> **This study confirms my suspicion that Indian hospitals are busy admitting a large number of asymptomatic patients**
> Dr Jammi N Rao, epidemiologist

PANDEMIC

PM praises Delhi's efforts, asks others to emulate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reviewed the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, while appreciating the outcome of the collaborative approach in the national capital in containment of the virus.

"The Prime Minister appreciated the concerted efforts of the Centre, state and local authorities in containing the pandemic situation in Delhi. He further directed that similar approach should be adopted with other state governments in containing the Covid-19 pandemic in entire national capital region (NCR) area," the PMO said in an official statement.

In Delhi, the Centre had stepped in to enhance testing and tracing as well as scaling up the availability of Covid-19 beds.

The review meeting was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, NITI Aayog member V K Paul and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, among others. The Prime Minister stressed on social discipline and personal hygiene to contain the pandemic.

The review meeting has come in the backdrop of a number of states resorting to localised re-imposition of lockdown for short spell.

"The successful example of surveillance and home based-care through Dhanvantri Rath in Ahmedabad was highlighted in the meeting. It was directed that it may be emulated in other places. Modi also directed that real-time national level monitoring and guidance should be provided to all affected states and places with high test positivity rate," the PMO statement added.

The review meeting was held via video- conferencing.

India's tiger estimation is largest camera trap survey

NEW DELHI: The All India Tiger Estimation 2018, released last year, has entered the Guinness World Record for being the world's largest camera trap wildlife survey.

The results had shown that India now has an estimated 2,967 tigers out of which 2,461 — a whopping 83 per cent of the big cat population — have been photo-captured. According to the Guinness citation, the fourth iteration of the survey, conducted in 2018-19, was the most comprehensive to date, in terms of both resource and data amassed.

"Camera traps (outdoor photographic devices fitted with motion sensors that start recording when an animal passes by) were placed in 26,838 locations across 141 different sites and surveyed an effective area of 1,21,337 sq km. In total, the camera traps captured 34,858,623 photographs of wildlife, 76,651 of which were tigers and 51,777 were leopards. From these, 2,461 tigers were identified using stripe-pattern-recognition software," it reads. *ENS*

Chorus grows in Cong for Rahul as party prez

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE chorus to bring back Rahul Gandhi as party president is growing in the Congress with several Lok Sabha MPs at a meeting called by party chief Sonia Gandhi on Saturday asking for the Gandhi scion to take over the reins.

However, both Rahul and Sonia maintained silence on the request.

Rahul has repeatedly clarified that he would like to continue working for the party, but the party has to either elect a new president or extend the tenure of Sonia Gandhi before August 10, when she completes one year as interim chief.

During the virtual meeting, a discussion was held on the Narendra Modi government's Covid-19 response, the Chinese intrusion in Ladakh, rising petrol prices, economic crisis and delay in convening the monsoon session of Parliament.

Party MPs led by Congress chief whip in the Lok Sabha K Suresh requested Sonia that Rahul should lead the party. Other MPs — Gaurav Gogoi, Mohd Javed, Anto Antony and Manickam Tagore — also raised the issue that Rahul, who has been targeting Prime Minister Naendra Modi over various issues on a daily basis, should take over the party.

"Many MPs appealed to Sonia to ask Rahul Gandhi to take over Congress president. Rahul ji also spoke at the meeting on various issues. She did not respond to our request and Rahul ji also kept quiet. This has been the sentiment of the party that he should take over," said a Lok Sabha MP from Kerala.

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh also called for Rahul to lead the party. "...The whole Congress Party young old everyone stands behind you and are ready to make whatever sacrifice you demand. So Rahul ji please LEAD," Singh tweeted Saturday.

The party is expected to hold a Congress Working Committee meeting in coming weeks to decide on extending the tenure of Sonia as interim chief as the party could not start the process of electing a new president due to lockdown.

250 militants ready to cross LoC: Army

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

Arms and ammunition seized after two militants were killed in Baramulla | PTI

THE Army on Saturday said Pakistan has been failing in its attempts to instigate people of Kashmir ever since the Centre scrapped Article 370 last year. It said at least 250 militants were waiting at launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into J&K.

The Army warned that any trans-LoC movement will meet an appropriate response, asserting it remains fully committed to maintaining the sanctity of LoC.

General officer Commanding (GoC) of Baramulla-based Army's 19 Infantry Division Major General Virender Vats told media that the Army foiled an infiltration attempt along the LoC in Naugam sector in the border district of Kupwara in the early hours on Saturday.

Two militants in combat fatigue attempted to cut the anti-infiltration fence. "Both the militants were killed in a clean operation. Two AK rifles, a pistol, 12 magazines, medicines, food and ₹1.5 lakh Indian and Pakistani currency were recovered from them," he said.

Major General Vats said since militants passed through Pakistani posts, it clearly indicated Pakistan's complicity in fomenting trouble in India. "At least 250 militants are waiting to infiltrate," he said.

EXPRESS READ

BJP vice-prez pans Uddhav for lockdown

New Delhi: BJP vice-president Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, in a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, has said people feel lockdown being re-imposed within a few days of the Unlock 2.0 smacks of utter confusion at various levels of administration. "It's believed that these are decisions taken arbitrarily and they can be described as a case of convenient safe-play. Not only traders and shopkeepers, but also many other professionals, industrialists, entrepreneurs and common citizens are also inconvenienced due to this ad-hocism and inconsistency," Sahasrabuddhe's letter stated. He stated that "many may face further loss of livelihood" and job seekers as well as job providers will also be facing hardships. "Not just poor but most middle classes are facing challenges in making both ends meet," he wrote.

Tejashwi pushes to postpone Bihar polls

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

REITERATING his demand of postponing of assembly election in Bihar, Leader of opposition in Bihar Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday said that it is the responsibility of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to hold elections after the Covid-19 pandemic is contained.

"I will be the last person to have an election on dead bodies. If Nitishji acknowledges that Covid is still a crisis, elections can be postponed until the situation improves but if he thinks Covid is not a problem, polls must be conducted with traditional means of electioneering," he tweeted.

Polls in Bihar are due in October-November but the EC has so far not made any official announcement about its schedule.

Attacking on Nitish Kumar-led government, he further said that the inapt handling of situation emerged after the Covid outbreak had worsened the condition in the state.

"The abject failure of the Nitish government in handling this pandemic and migrants issues has led to chaos and insecurity among people. There seems to be no containment and mitigation strategy in place," he said. "An exponential surge in new cases is worrying. This COVID crisis has exposed the misdemeanors of the Nitish government inside out."

'US using India to contain China, won't offer help'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

An Indian Army vehicle moves towards Ladakh at Himachal Pradesh's Bara-lacha la mountain pass in Lahual district | PTI

A day after Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidong called for New Delhi and Beijing to be partners and not rivals, China on Saturday warned India against being instigated by the United States.

An article published in the Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, The Global Times, said, "The US' seemingly unequivocal support to India on the China-India border issue only serves US interests, and India is just seen by the US as a bullet in its containment policy toward China."

The US has stood firmly behind India in the stand-off against China. The US Secretary of State on Wednesday accused China of taking "incredibly aggressive" action and said "the Indians have done their best to respond to that".

The Global Times article says the US gesture may have convinced some Indian politicians and military officers into believing that Washington will offer help in confronting China. "But for the US, befriending India serves to pressure and contain China rather than offer help to India's geopolitical security," the article said, quoting Chinese analysts.

"There is no doubt that Washington would prefer a conflict between China and India so that the US benefits," it added.

The article warns India against being fooled by the US tricks. "The US could only pay lip service to India and is unlikely to offer any concrete financial or military help. India has to understand that it is just a bullet for the US in its containment policy toward China, not even a gun," it stated.

Don't bank too much on Trump, says ex-NSA of US

NEW DELHI: Former US NSA John Bolton said there was no guarantee that President Donald Trump will back India if the tension with China escalates.

"I don't know what Trump will do after the November polls once the guard rail is removed. He'll be back to the big China trade deal. If things were to develop between India and China in a more critical fashion, I'm not sure where he would come down," Bolton told a TV channel. He said Trump sees the geostrategic ties with China through the prism of trade and he was not sure as to which side Trump would go. "I think his gut instinct for the next four months is to take anything off the table that complicates what is already a difficult poll campaign for him." *ENS*

NEW EQUIPMENT
Aiming to conduct clinical tests of at least one lakh Covid-19 samples daily, the WB government has ordered for testing equipment from a Switzerland-based company.

872 NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES IN GUJARAT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	28	25
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	40	26	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	34	27	Lucknow	33	28
Chennai	32	24	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	28	20	Chandigarh	36	23

UP SIT to probe killing of cops, not encounters

Team to assess failures that led to the death of eight policemen

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday set up a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing of eight policemen by Vikas Dubey and his henchmen and also the gangster's links with the police.

Headed by Additional Chief Secretary Sanjay Bhoosreddy, the SIT will comprise Additional Director General of Police Hari Ram Sharma and Inspector General of Police J Ravindra Gaur.

The SIT has been asked to submit its report after thorough evaluation of all the documentary and spot evidence by July 31. The SIT has been given the mandate to assess intelligence and operational failures that led to the death of the eight police personnel when they had raided Dubey's hideout in Bikru village.

But the probe will not cover how the gangster and his associates were killed in encounters, which many have questioned. Besides the massacre of the policemen, the SIT will also look into the action taken in all the criminal cases lodged so far against the slain gangster.

The probe team will also find out if the action taken against the criminal and his cohorts in different cases was adequate or not. The SIT will investigate the public complaints lodged against Dubey and also the action taken by officials of the Chaubeypur police station under which his village falls.

To probe the criminal-police nexus, Dubey's Call Detail Record (CDR) of the last one year and police personnel who were allegedly in touch with him would be under the SIT scanner. The team will also investigate why his arms licence was not cancelled as he had such a criminal past.

In another development, the ED is preparing to file a case of money laundering against the slain gangster and his associates while conducting an inquiry into his legal, illegal, declared and undisclosed property amassed over the years.

RAF personnel at Bikaru village in connection with gangster Vikas Dubey case | PTI

NGO seeks SIT probe from SC into encounter killing

A plea has been filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) in the Supreme Court seeking direction to set up special investigation team, having officers who have not served in Uttar Pradesh, to probe into the encounter deaths. The petitioners have urged the court to constitute a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to enquire into the encounters that have been taking place in UP.

ED begins probe into gangster's properties

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

A day after the encounter killing of Vikas Dubey, the Enforcement Directorate, in coordination with the state Special Task Force (STF), has begun investigation into the financial network of the don and is contemplating registering a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)-2002 against him on Saturday.

In an inter-state operation, Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested Dubey's two aides — Guddan Trivedi and Suresh Tiwari — in Thane on Saturday. While Trivedi was present at Dubey's house during the ambush on a police team on July 2, Sonu was Dubey's driver.

Police sources said the gangster had amassed huge wealth and properties running into crores in Lucknow, Kanpur, Unnao, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. He had recently bought a penthouse each in Thailand and Dubai. His huge declared and undeclared assets are now under the ED scanner.

Sources said Vikas had also bought plots and houses worth Rs 20 crore recently in Lucknow. Dubey is believed to have owned 11 independent houses and 16 flats across the country besides 150-bigha land in his ancestral village Bikru.

Dubey, the main accused in the killing of eight policemen during an operation against him in Bikru village, Kanpur, was killed in an "encounter" when he tried to flee while being brought back to Kanpur from Ujjain. Dubey was arrested from Mahakal temple in Ujjain on Thursday morning.

Sources said an ED team from its Lucknow regional office had visited Kanpur recently and met top police officers, including Inspector General Mohit Agarwal. The financial probe agency has also kept the don's financers and supporters on the radar.

A source said ED officials are ready with details of assets belonging to Dubey and his henchmen.

WHO PRAISES DHARAVI CONTAINMENT BUT EXPERTS POINT TO HERD IMMUNITY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI & SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ Mumbai/New Delhi

THE Covid-19 curve in Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, which at one point looked alarming, did a dramatic turnaround earlier last month, with daily cases and the average growth rate nosediving while the doubling time and recovery rate rising sharply.

The turn for the better even earned praise from World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said "Dharavi, a densely packed area in the megacity of Mumbai a strong focus on community engagement and the basics of testing, tracing, isolating and treating all those that are sick are key to breaking the chains of transmission and suppressing the virus."

The Brihanmumbai Corporation, which administers the city, thanked the WHO in a tweet. "Thank you WHO for acknowledging the mission Dharavi where we partnered with citizens to chase the virus from one of the most populated blocks of the city. With your guidelines and Mumbai's community efforts, we will beat Covid-19 one block at a time by tracing, tracking, testing and treating," it said.

The BMC touts Dharavi as a major success story in its fight against Covid-19. It claims to have conducted a rigorous exercise of testing, tracing and treating —a regimen strongly advised by even the WHO.

Rahul Shewale, the Shiv Sena MP who represents the area, underscored the massive effort that was put in place right after the first Covid 19 case was detected in the area.

"We enforced a complete lockdown, roped in over 1,200 private doctors, local NGOs, community groups and politicalleaders from every party to check the health status of everyone living in the area," he said. An extensive door-to-door survey was carried out and 8.5 lakh people were screened.

Kiran Dighavkar, an assistant municipal commissioner with BMC, said they worked on the 4T strategy: tracing, tracking, testing and treating. "We as part of the strategy started proactive screening in high-risk zones and organised fever camps to identify the suspects. We mobilised all available private practitioners through this drive conducted in mission-mode," he said. Dasksha Shah, the BMC health officer, stressed that from identifying new cases to disinfecting their house to identifying all their contacts and isolating them, several steps were taken swiftly within two days from the detection of a case.

But health experts and social activists attributed the success to other reasons. While epidemiologists felt the area may have reached herd immunity, activists said many migrant workers living in the slums left after the lockdown, helping the population to maintain social distancing.

Herd immunity is not yet fully understood in the context of Covid-19 and understanding around it is still evolving. But scientists have estimated that if about 60 per cent of the population is infected and eventually recovers, the whole population in that area gets protected from the virus.

Those following viral diseases believe it is this natural stage of the outbreak that has made things look better in Dharavi more than any measure put in by authorities.

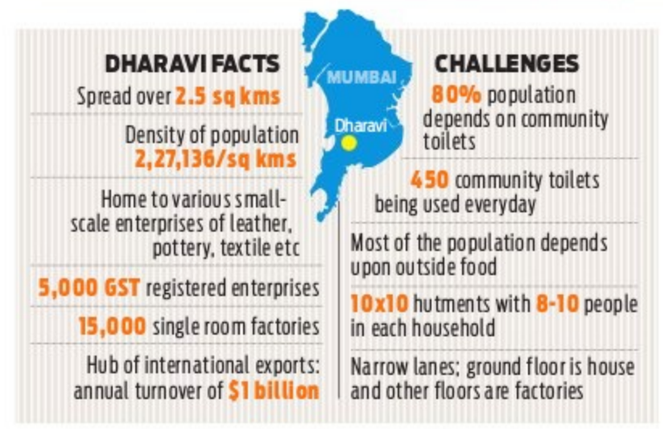
"My guess, based on the knowledge accumulated over decades, is that Dharavi has seen the worst and the total detected cases there are just a minuscule proportion of the population exposed to the virus actually," said Dr Sanjay Rai, a community medicine specialist at AIIMS, Delhi, who has been helping the Delhi government in the pandemic response. He added that the only way to confirm was through an extensive sero-surveillance exercise which checks for presence of antibodies in population.

"The way these surveys should be done in order to make informed policy decisions are not happening. Also, we have to understand that antibody tests have their limitations owing to low sensitivity as they miss many positive cases and thus underestimate the actual virus exposure levels," he pointed out.

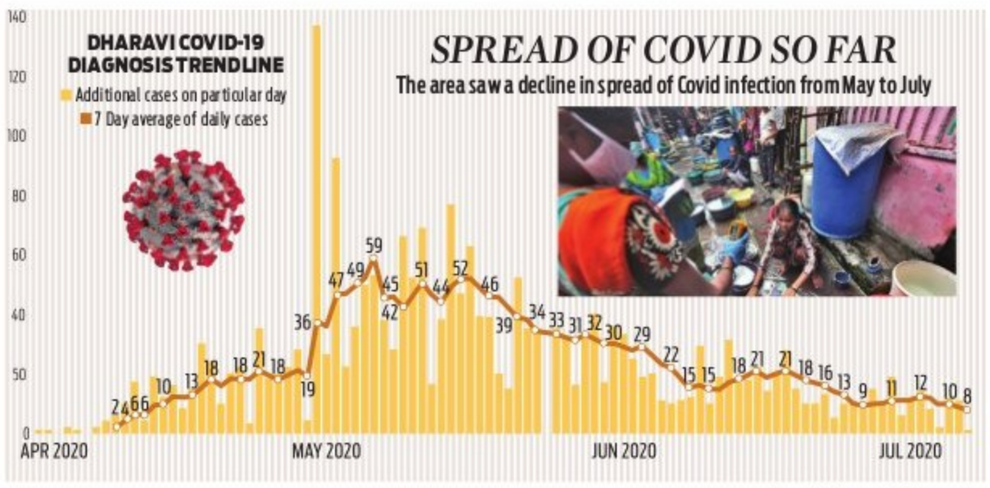
The country's leading virologist and epidemiologist Jayaprakash Muliyil endorsed Rai. "Areas like Dharavi or many parts of Delhi which have seen avalanche of Covid 19 cases but are now seem to be settling down could be because these areas are reaching the level of viral exposure required for herd immunity," said Muliyil, who is also part of an expert group constituted by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the Covid-19 epidemiology.

Rajendra Korde, a local activist, said out of a total 15 lakh population, more than five lakh people left Dharavi and went back to their native places after the lockdown.

"The local authorities were able to handle the limited population. Besides, from Ganesh Mandal to community group, NGOs to social and political groups, people participated in the fight against Covid-19. In Dharavi, different communities stay in but all are connected to each other and they put up a collective effort," Korde said.



DHARAVI FACTS
Spread over 2.5 sq kms
Density of population 2,27,136/sq kms
Home to various small-scale enterprises of leather, pottery, textile etc
5,000 GST registered enterprises
15,000 single room factories
Hub of international exports: annual turnover of $1 billion
MUMBAI
Dharavi
CHALLENGES
80% population depends on community toilets
450 community toilets being used everyday
Most of the population depends upon outside food
10x10 hutments with 8-10 people in each household
Narrow lanes; ground floor is house and other floors are factories


DHARAVI COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS TRENDLINE
Additional cases on particular day
7 Day average of daily cases
SPREAD OF COVID SO FAR
The area saw a decline in spread of Covid infection from May to July
APR 2020
MAY 2020
JUN 2020
JUL 2020
Source: Brihanmumbai Corporation

Mamata unhappy with nephew, clips his wings

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

TRINAMOOL Congress chief Mamata Banerjee clipped the wings of her nephew and another two senior leaders who were assigned to look after party's organisational activities in four south Bengal districts where the BJP made deep inroads in the 2019 general election.

Banerjee has asked Transport Minister Subhendu Adhikari, who had played a key role before 2011 Assembly elections, to oversee the entire region that includes Junglemahal.

In a meeting with party leaders, the chief minister expressed her concern saying she is aware that many grassroute level party leaders and workers were in touch with the BJP since the saffron camp's impressive performance in East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram and Bankura districts in the 2021 Lok Sabha elections.

"She was not happy with the performance of her nephew Abhishek Banerjee who was assigned to oversee the party's organisation in Bankura district. The BJP bagged both Bankura and Bishnupur Lok Sabha seats. From now, none other than Adhikari will look after Bankura and three other districts," said a TMC leader.

Though Adhikari was asked to oversee the party's organisation in Jhargram and Bankura including his home district East Midnapore earlier, but was tagged with MP Kalyan Banerjee and the party's secretary general Partha Chatterjee. Sources in the TMC said Adhikari was not happy with it. Mamata recently expressed her unhappiness in a review meeting.

EXPRESS READ

This Ganesh Chaturthi, do online darshan

Mumbai: The Ganesh festival will be a low-key affair due to the pandemic in the state this time, the Maharashtra government has said in its standard operational procedure issued for festivities. It has also asked people to do online darshan during the festival using Facebook and local cable network. Mandals will have to seek corporation permission.

BJP offering MLAs ₹15 cr to topple govt, says Rajasthan CM

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE row over horse-trading charges has turned more serious in Rajasthan. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot alleged in a press conference on Saturday that the BJP was still making a determined effort to topple his government and Congress MLAs were being lured with offers of ₹15 crore each.

The BJP denied the charge and blamed the rift within the Congress for the current situation.

Gehlot's remarks came a day after the state police's special operations group (SOG) registered an FIR in the horse-trading charges during the Rajya Sabha elections last month. The SOG has issued notices to Gehlot and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot to record their statements in the matter. Notice has also been sent to the government's chief whip Mahesh Joshi to record his statement.

Sources say notices could be issued to nearly a dozen MLAs and others in the state. The SOG registered an FIR against two persons on Friday and arrested them for their alleged involvement in attempts to 'buy out' Congress MLAs.

Alleging that the "shameless" BJP had crossed all limits, Gehlot said, "While the state government kept working for the people during the Covid-19 crisis, the BJP has continued to cause problems."

The Chief Minister alleged that the BJP had "bought seven MLAs in Gujarat" to win last month's Rajya Sabha election and "tried to do the same thing in Rajasthan, but we stopped them and gave them a lesson".

The BJP hit back saying, with Poonia saying, "The Congress government has failed to deliver and could not manage the coronvirus crisis properly and that is why they are just trying to divert public attention."

Patna-IGIMS gets a new 'Department of Dietetics'

Patients admitted to Patna-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science (IGIMS) will now get dietary tips to fight their diseases. A new department of dietetics has been launched at IGIMS on the occasion of Doctors' day to promote a balanced dietary habit among the patients. Director of IGIMS, Dr SN Biswas dedicated the department to patients to educate them on nutritious diets-habit during both treatment and post recovery periods. "Now, with only ₹50 registration fee, patients can get details about their diet plans," said superintendent of IGIMS Dr Manish Mandal.

RAJESH K THAKUR
Our correspondent in Bihar
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PATNA DIARY

Union minister stresses awareness on disasters

Nityanand Rai, Mo S for Home Affairs, while visiting the 9th Battalion NDRF headquarters in Patna said that masses should be made aware on how to deal with the disasters and calamities like floods. He stressed on better coordination among various disaster-response agencies including weather & flood forecasting agencies for prompt response in case of any mishap. He also said that community awareness in the field of disaster management must be done on larger scale to minimize loss of life and property during disasters. Vijay Sinha, Commandant of NDRF briefed him about preparedness and the community awareness programmes like school Safety Programme, started by NDRF in Bihar and Jharkhand.

Flood control centre set up in Patna

The Water Resource Department (WRD) has set up the Central Flood Control Cell-Cum-Assistance Centre (CFCCCAC) in the state capital. The centre will help in flood-prone areas to shared information with the authorities. WRD minister Dr Sanjay Kumar Jha, who inaugurated the centre recently, said that CFCCCAC is equipped with state-of-the-art technology which can be accessed using a toll-free number and the 'Hello WRD' app. "People living in flood-prone districts can inform about flood disaster to the centre directly and alert the engineers," minister said.

'Corona-bhagao, Gaon bachao' for people in Bihar

At a time when the Covid-19 is spreading in Bihar's rural areas, people living there are being getting the 'Corona Safety Kits' free of cost by a Patna-based youth Syed Mustafa Hussein. Under a campaign 'Corona bhagao, Gaon bachao' (Chase Corona, Save Villages), Hussein is meeting all costs with his hard-earned money. "Saving humanity is also our prime duty," said Syed Mustafa Hussein. The Corona Safety Kits contain N-95 masks, sanitizers, soaps and detols and pamphlets of safety tips on social distancing and hand-washing.

6.91 mn
people have recovered from Covid-19 globally, as per the John Hopkins University's virus tracker

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	35	24	SNY	Los Angeles	31	17	SNY
Colombo	31	25	TDS	Melbourne	12	9	LR
Doha	42	31	SNY	Moscow	27	19	TDS
Dubai	44	33	SNY	New York	32	23	SNY
Houston	39	25	SNY	Singapore	30	25	TDS
Istanbul	30	19	SNY	Toronto	27	17	LC
London	23	12	SNY	Washington DC	34	23	LC

SEATTLE

Email to workers banning TikTok a mistake: Amazon

Roughly five hours after an internal email went out Friday to Amazon employees telling them to delete the popular video app TikTok from their phones, the online retailer appeared to backtrack, calling the ban a mistake. "There is no change to our policies right now with regard to TikTok," Amazon emailed reporters. The original email had cited the app's "security risks."

BRASÍLIA

Evangelical pastor named Brazil's education minister

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro named an evangelical pastor as his fourth education minister in 18 months. Milton Ribeiro replaces Carlos Alberto Decotelli, who resigned after admitting to having lied on his CV. Media said Ribeiro was selected following pressure from the evangelical lobby. One of his first tasks will be to manage the return of kids to school.

GENEVA

I remain optimistic about Covid-19 battle: Bill Gates

Bill Gates said on Saturday he was "optimistic" about the battle against Covid-19 and called for medicines and vaccines to be distributed to those who need them rather than to the "highest bidders". Gates' foundation pledged $7.4 billion to global vaccines alliance Gavi in June to help immunisation programmes disrupted by coronavirus.

BELGRADE

Serbia arrests 71 people over coronavirus protests

Serbian police said they have arrested 71 people, including a Briton and a Tunisian, after violence broke out during a protest in Belgrade against the government's management of the pandemic. Thousands of people demonstrated in several Serbian cities on Friday for a fourth day in row, with protesters hurling stones at police in front of parliament.

SAN FRANCISCO

Slew of white nationalist Twitter handles suspended

Twitter on Friday said it suspended more than 50 white nationalist accounts for violating policies against violent extremism. The move came days after release of a report by nonprofit Global Project Against Hate and Extremism saying that propaganda pushed by white supremacist network Generation Identity is "rampant" on Twitter and YouTube.

WARSAW

Tight presidential runoff in crucial Poland vote

Voters in Poland on Sunday will decide a tight runoff election between populist incumbent President Andrzej Duda and his liberal pro-EU challenger, Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski. Recent opinion polls show a race so close that it could hinge on a narrow margin of voters, which added urgency to the final days of campaigning in the country.

LOS ANGELES

Jada and Will Smith reveal her relationship with Alsina

With their marriage under scrutiny, Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith reaffirmed their commitment to each other as Pinkett Smith admitted to having a relationship with musician August Alsina when she and Smith were separated. What started as a friendship and a family effort to help Alsina with his health four years ago became a "different kind of entanglement."

Trump's move to free ally condemned as 'corruption'

Roger Stone, a colourful figure in American politics, is the 1st person directly involved in the 2016 presidential campaign to get clemency

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump's commutation of the prison sentence of longtime ally Roger Stone was a case of "unprecedented, historic corruption," Senator Mitt Romney tweeted Sunday, making his a rare Republican voice raised in criticism of the president.

Stone had been set to go to jail on Tuesday after his conviction of seven felony crimes. They include tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign conspired with Russia to help him win the 2016 election.

Romney, who infuriated Trump when he became the only Republican to vote to convict the president in his impeachment trial, pulled no punches on Saturday.

"Unprecedented, historic corruption: an American president commutes the sentence of a person convicted by a jury of lying to shield that very president," he tweeted.

His blunt criticism set him apart from most Republicans, who remained largely mute on the matter, but it aligned him with the unanimous condemnation coming from the president's Democratic critics, led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "President Trump's decision to commute the sentence of top campaign advisor Roger Stone, who could directly implicate him in criminal misconduct, is an act of staggering corruption," she tweeted early Saturday.

Pelosi called for legislation "to ensure that no president can pardon or commute the sentence of an individual who

Roger Stone has described himself in the past as a dirty trickster | AP

is engaged in a cover-up campaign to shield that president from criminal prosecution."

Trump's action late Friday immediately brought new charges that the president has intervened freely in the US justice system to help friends and allies and punish critics and perceived enemies.

A new low

In May, the US Justice Department moved to dismiss its own case against Michael Flynn, a former national security advisor to Trump, though he had pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. A federal judge has demanded a further review of that highly unusual administration move.

But Stone was the first person directly involved in Trump's campaign to receive clemency.

63K fresh cases

Separately, the USrecorded 63,643 new coronavirus cases on Friday, according to a tracker maintained by Johns Hopkins University. As of 0030 GMT Saturday, 774 people died of Covid-19 in the country in the past 24 hours. *AFP*

Don working on order for merit-based immigration

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is working on an executive order to establish a merit-based immigration system in the US, the White House has said.

The White House statement came soon after Trump, in an interview with Spanish-language Telemundo News channel, said he is working on an executive order on immigration that will include a "road to citizenship" for recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programme.

The DACA programme provides for work permits and other protections for people brought to the US as children by undocumented parents. It affects an estimated 700,000 young people, many of whom are Indian or South Asian descent.

Responding to a question during the interview, Trump said his action on the DACA is going to be part of a much bigger bill on immigration.

"It's going to be a very big bill, a very good bill, and a merit-based bill and it will include DACA, and I think people are going to be very happy," said the Republican president. *PTI*

Setback in polls for S'pore ruling party

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE'S long-ruling party retained power Saturday but its support fell sharply, while the opposition made gains, in a general election held under the shadow of a coronavirus outbreak.

Voters put on masks and gloves and had to observe social distancing rules during a poll held as the city-state emerges from a lengthy lockdown.

The affluent financial hub has seen large virus outbreaks in dormitories housing low-paid foreign workers, but with new infections slowing and authorities easing a partial lockdown the government pushed ahead with the poll.

The People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled Singapore for six decades, was always assured of victory, and won 83 of 93 parliamentary seats up for grabs, and 61.2 percent of the popular vote.

Singapore's Prime Minister and secretary-general of the ruling People's Action Party Lee Hsien Loong (C) and his wife Ho Ching (R) | AFP

But that was pointedly down on the nearly 70 percent of the vote it won at the country's last election in 2015, while the opposition Workers' Party picked up 10 seats -- its best ever showing at an election.

Disappointed PM

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, visibly disappointed, conceded the "percentage of the popular vote is not as high as I had hoped".

"The results reflect the pain and uncertainty that Singaporeans feel in this crisis -- the loss of income, the anxiety about jobs," he told a press conference.

"This was not a feel-good election."

The PAP's share of the popular vote was close to its lowest ever level of 60.1 percent, in the 2011 election.

But for the Workers' Party, which previously held just six seats, the results felt like a victory. Raucous celebrations erupted in one of the party's strongholds, with people cheering and waving flags.

"I'm very grateful to all the voters, I'm also very humbled," said party leader Pritam Singh. "I think there's a lot of work to do."

Commentators said the ruling party's support may also have been dented by a desire for change among the young.

"Younger voters wanted their voices to be heard in a more significant way," Eugene Tan, political analyst from Singapore Management University, told broadcaster CNA.

"One-party governance may not go down so well with them in this age and time."

Friday's vote had been marred after long queues formed outside polling stations due to the need to undergo virus checks, prompting election officials to extend voting by two hours. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

MYANMAR

Alarm over farming of tigers & pangolins

Conservationists have warned a sudden change in Myanmar's law allowing the commercial farming of tigers, pangolins and other endangered species risks further fuelling demand in China for rare wildlife products. The nation is already a hub for the illegal trafficking of wildlife, a trade driven by demand from China and worth an estimated $20 billion. In June, Myanmar quietly gave the green light to private zoos to apply for licences to breed 90 species.

PAKISTAN

Pak Ulema Council backs Hindu temple

The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), an umbrella group of Muslim organisations, is supporting the building of the first Hindu temple in Islamabad and denounced the controversy over the issue, Dawn newspaper reported.

INDONESIA

'Dog doctor' rescues canines from pandemic peril

Indonesian doctor Susana Somali and her staff are recusing dogs from the butcher's block after they are sold or abandoned during the coronavirus pandemic. Somali's sprawling Jakarta complex, home to about 1,400 canines, has become a refuge for at-risk animals as cash-strapped owners sell them into the nation's controversial dog meat trade. She rescues as many as 20 dogs a week as strays are snatched off the streets for their meat.

An empty Covid-19 ward in a hospital set up by the Al Manahil charity in Chittagong, Bangladesh | AFP

Bangladeshi virus sufferers too scared to go to hospitals

DHAKA

THOUSANDS of beds for coronavirus patients in Bangladesh are lying empty despite the country struggling with a rising caseload as people are too scared to enter hospitals, officials and sufferers say.

Some patients have bluntly told health workers they would "rather die at home than die in a hospital", an official for a medical charity told AFP.

Bangladesh has registered about 180,000 infections, and around 3,000 new cases are being added each day, while the death toll stood at 2,275 by Friday.

In the capital Dhaka, about 4,750 of 6,305 beds set aside for coronavirus patients are not being used, the government's health department acknowledged.

At a new 2,000-bed field hospital especially built to fight the pandemic, only about 100 patients are inside.

Authorities in the second city of Chittagong, which has emerged as a virus hotspot, say only half of its dedicated hospital beds are currently filled.

Health experts and virus sufferers say people are worried about the level of care they would receive in a public hospital.

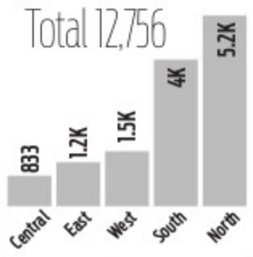
A survey of more than 80,000 people carried out with United Nations backing found 44 percent of Bangladeshis were "too scared" to even call the government's COVID-19 helpline.

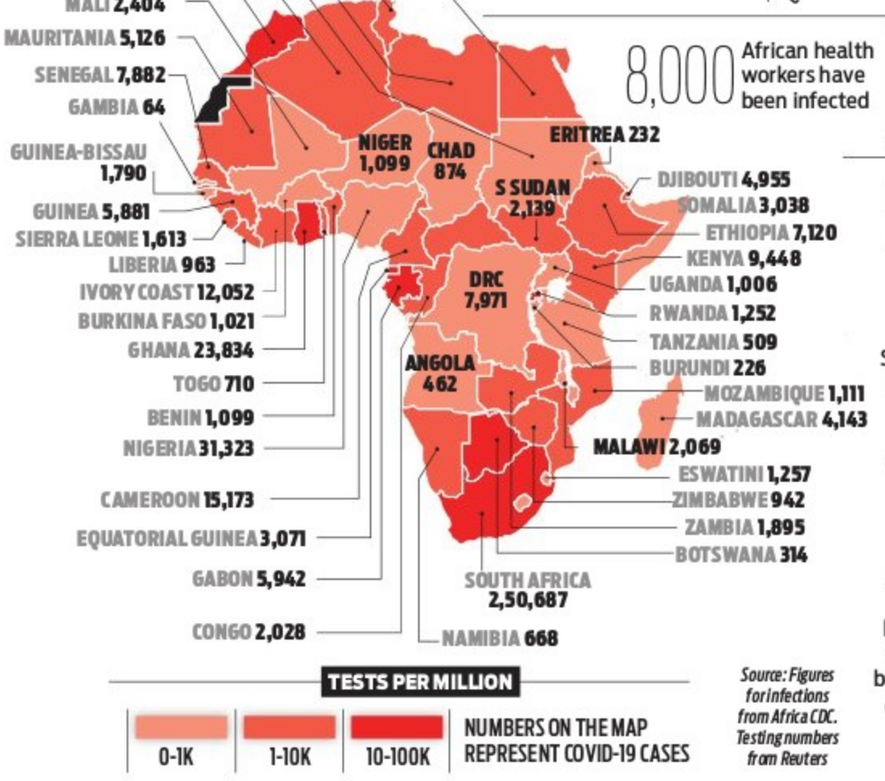
Bangladesh's public hospitals are not "patient friendly", according to Rashid e Mahbub, head of the Bangladesh Health Rights Movement. *AFP*

Low testing in Africa causes worry

The continent has the world's lowest levels of health staffing and more than 550,000 cases, and the pandemic is reaching "full speed," the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, as per the *AP*. And amidst this, shortages of testing materials and poor data collection in some African countries mean the true numbers are unknown

COVID-19 DEATHS IN AFRICA BY REGION





8,000 African health workers have been infected

1.3 bn population in Africa

Big gaps in healthcare

The pandemic has exposed the gap in healthcare in South Africa. In Johannesburg, badly-needed oxygen concentrators, which help people with Covid-19 breathe, are hard to find as private businesses and individuals are buying them up, a public health specialist told the *AP*.

Source: Figures for infections from Africa CDC. Testing numbers from Reuters

Iran says cannot afford shutdown despite worsening virus outbreak

TEHRAN

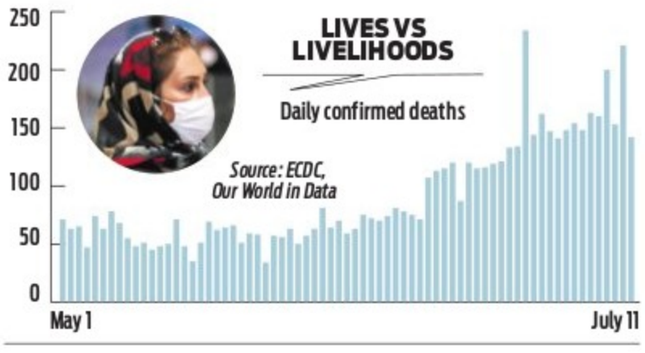
IRAN said on Saturday that it cannot afford to shut down its sanctions-hit economy, even as the country's novel coronavirus outbreak worsens with record-high death tolls and rising infections.

Iran must continue "economic, social and cultural activities while observing health protocols", President Hassan Rouhani said during a televised virus taskforce meeting.

"The simplest solution is to close down all activities, (but) the next day, people would come out to protest the (resulting) chaos, hunger, hardship and pressure," he added.

The Islamic republic has been struggling since late February to contain the country's Covid-19 outbreak, the deadliest in the Middle East.

Health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari reported Saturday that 188 people had died from the respiratory disease in the past 24 hours, raising the overall toll to 12,635.



Iran's daily Covid-19 death toll has topped 100 since around mid-June, with a record single-day tally of 221 reported on Thursday.

Lari also raised the country's caseload to 255,117, with 2,397 new infections recorded. The outbreak's rising toll has prompted authorities to make wearing masks mandatory in enclosed public spaces and to allow the hardest hit provinces to reimpose restrictive measures.

Iran closed schools, cancelled public events and banned movement between its 31 provinces in March, but Rouhani's government progressively lifted restrictions from April to reopen its sanctions-hit economy.

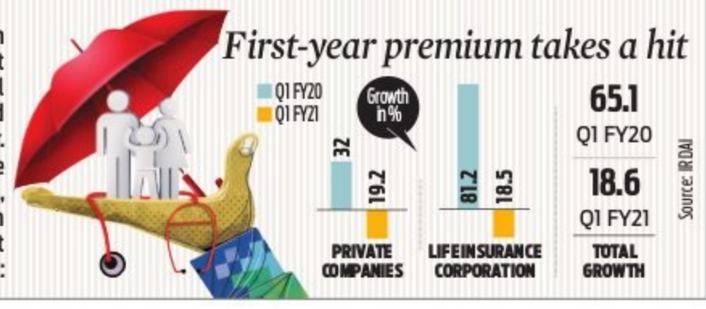
Iran has suffered a sharp economic downturn after US President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark nuclear agreement in 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions.

The International Monetary Fund predicts Iran's economy will shrink by six percent this year.

"It is not possible to keep businesses and economic activities shut down in the long-term," Rouhani said, emphasising that "the people will not accept this". *AFP*

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS
BUSINESS
10 BENGALURU SUNDAY 12.07.2020

Life insurers' first year premium declined 18.64 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year ended June 30, 2020 compared with the same period last year. While premium received by private companies declined by 19.2 per cent, state-run Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) registered a 18.45 per cent decrease in Q1 FY21. Here's a look:



EXPRESS READ

LOCKDOWN BLUES

AVENUE SUPERMARTS PROFIT DOWN 88% AS COVID-19 HITS HARD

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts, the owner of the DMart chain of supermarkets on Saturday reported an 87.6 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit during the first quarter of FY21 ended June. According to Neville Noronha, CEO & Managing Director, restrictions have had a significant impact on the company's operational and financial performance during the quarter. "Our revenue, EBIDTA and PAT for the quarter were significantly lower as compared to the same quarter last year," he said. Avenue reported a consolidated profit after tax of `40 crore against `323 crore during the first quarter of the previous fiscal year.

GREEN SIGNAL

NCLT APPROVES DECCAN VALUE INVESTORS' BID FOR AMTEK AUTO

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved a `2,700-crore bid by Deccan Value Investors (DVI) for the debt-ridden Amtek Auto Ltd. The Chandigarh bench of the NCLT has approved the resolution plan by DVI for the auto components maker, which has a total debt of around Rs 12,700 crore. The tribunal observed that the resolution plan submitted by DVI fulfils all the requirements of regulations of the corporate insolvency resolution process and has been approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC). It has also directed to create a committee of five persons for implementation of the plan.

ECONOMIST TAKE

'RATE CUT HELPING DELIVER GROWTH IS NOT WORKING'

New Delhi: Economist Rathin Roy on Saturday said the assumption that rate cut helping deliver growth is not working in simplistic way as transmission is not happening. Rathin Roy, director of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, said the assumptions on linear relationships between rate cuts resulting in growth by lowering the cost of capital is not working for some time now. "I am not persuaded by the RBI's monetary policy statements, including that of the governor, regarding the rush down for these rate cuts. I heard him (Governor) just before this session and I continue to not being convinced," he said.

RBI Guv moots resolution agency for stressed firms

Earlier, the Centre had also included such a clause in the FRDI Bill

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

> The regulator will continue to take necessary measures, engage with the management of the bank or NBFCs to identify the vulnerabilities, but there has to be a legally-backed arrangement
>
> Shaktikanta Das

RESERVE Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday urged the creation of a resolution corporation which would deal wth the resolution and revival of stressed financial service companies. Speaking at the 7th SBI Banking and Economics e-Conclave, Das said that going forward, legislative backing to set up such an agency will be needed.

The proposal is not new. In fact, the Centre had included such a clause in the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill brought before Parliament in August 2017. However, the Bill ran into a storm due to a controversial 'bail-in' clause under which a bank's liabilities could be cancelled/modified to shore up its finances.

Das however, said on Saturday that a regulator can only issue early warning signals and flag the emerging risks. "The regulator will continue to take necessary measures, continue to engage with the management of the bank or NBFCs to identify the vulnerabilities, but there has to be a legally-backed arrangement," he noted.

The RBI governor pointed out that the notification issued under Section 227 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has given additional powers to the RBI to deal with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs). The rRBI has already used these powers and appointed administrators in the case of fraud-hit Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL).

DHFL, the third-largest pure-play mortgage player, is the first such company to go through the corporate insolvency resolution process. "That is going on fairly well. We review it, we do monitor it from time to time," Das said.

The RBI Governor also said that traditionally, in cases of distress, banks and other financial institutions have merged a failed bank with a larger lender. "While that definitely protects the depositors' interest, it also tends to pull down the balance sheet of the larger bank," he noted. In the case of Yes Bank, he said, a market-based resolution was initially tried out and investors had even shown interest. But, these did not materialise. "We then, without adversely impacting the balance sheet of any participating bank, worked out this arrangement of public private partnerships," Das said. Under this plan, Yes Bank had received around ₹10,000 crore from eight financial institutions, including ₹6,050 crore from SBI.

"The Yes Bank reconstruction scheme forged a unique public private partnership between leading financial entities of India, and it was implemented in a very quick time, which helped the bank's revival, successfully safeguarded the interest of the bank's depositors and ensured financial stability," Das said.

Apple supplier Foxconn set to invest $1 bn in TN

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

TAIWAN-based Foxconn, a contract manufacturer that assembles Apple iPhones as well as phones Xiaomi handsets, plans to invest $1 billion in Tamil Nadu over the next three years, a Reuters report said citing sources. It added that Foxconn plans to expand its plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai with fresh investment that will generate over 6,000 jobs.

The move is seen as Apple's plans to shift iPhone production away from China and reduce its dependence on the country in the wake of the ongoing trade war between the US and China coupled with the rising anti-China sentiment after the coronavirus outbreak. Reuters had reported that there is a strong request from Apple to its clients to move part of the production base out of China and iPhone models made by Foxconn in China, to be made at India plant. Foxconn has another plant in Andhra Pradesh.

When *TNIE* contacted Foxconn International Holding's India head and managing director Josh Foulger for his reaction on the issue, he remained tight-lipped. "We don't have any comments on the issue," he said. Notably, Foxconn Chairman, Liu Young-Way at the company's annual general meeting held last month had hinted about ramping up investments in India .

Another Apple contract manufacturer Wistron is also planning investments to scale up production in its plant in Karnataka as parts of its efforsts to diversify its supply chain.

Meanwhile, the government is also trying its best to attract global companies. Recently, the Centre has announced schemes offering five global smartphone makers incentives to establish or expand domestic production. Even the Tamil Nadu government has constituted a special investment promotion task force to attract investors from countries planning to relocate their manufacturing bases post Covid-19. However, state officials didn't comment on the Foxconn development.

MAKE IN INDIA

$1 bn	6,000
Investment planned by Foxconn over next 3 years	Jobs that the Apple maker plans to create in India

With the expansion of its supplier base in India, Apple will be able to use the country as an export hub

NEWSCOPE

TIKTOK AND FINDING THE REAL DIGITAL IMPERIALISTS

GURBIR SINGH

THE US and India have crossed swords on whether customs duty should be levied on Harley Davidson bikes, but the two countries are sailing in the same boat when it comes to banning the hugely popular Chinese app TikTok. Soon after the border clashes with China, in a retaliatory 'surgical strike' India banned TikTok and 58 other apps on national security concerns.

It's hurting both sides of the border. For TikTok, India's 120 million users is a huge market, the largest, perhaps, after China. In India, the app was a form of self-expression in dance and quirky gigs especially for millions of rural youth.

The Indian government has different concerns. The Union ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said the apps were banned as they were "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India", thereby comprising the "sovereignty and integrity of India".

The US administration, which has been blaming China for the spread of what Donald Trump calls the 'China virus', found a good point of alliance. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lost no time, and in an interview with Fox News, revealed that a ban on TikTok was "something we are looking at." That he was serious about it was apparent when he compared a ban on TikTok with the earlier bans imposed on Chinsese tech giants Huawei and ZTE.

Chinese controls

Though TikTok denies it is involved in any snooping, and claims it stores user data in servers in the country of origin, critics have pointed to its questionable privacy practices like a leaked moderation guidelines that discourage criticism of events like the Tiananmen Square protests. The fear is, as voiced by Sarah Cook, an analyst of the right wing think tank Freedom First: "The Chinese government has a history of gaining control over nodes in the information system."

However, the bigger concern cited is the symbiotic relationship between the Chinese state and Chinese companies, where the latter by law are required to share data with the government. The two specific laws that rope in Chinese companies are the 2017 National Intelligence Law and the 2014 Counter-Espionage Law. Article 7, for example, of the National Intelligence Law provides that "any organization or citizen shall support, assist and cooperate with the state intelligence work in accordance with the law."

We are right to be concerned about possible data mining by Chinese companies that may fall into the hands of the Chinese government. However, it is a practice that goes back centuries to the East India Company where private commercial operators collaborated with their governments to subdue and colonize indigenous people. What is repugnant though is US double-speak. After all its intelligence agencies have been using private commercial companies for decades to spy on, assassinate leaders and remove elected governments.

US double-speak

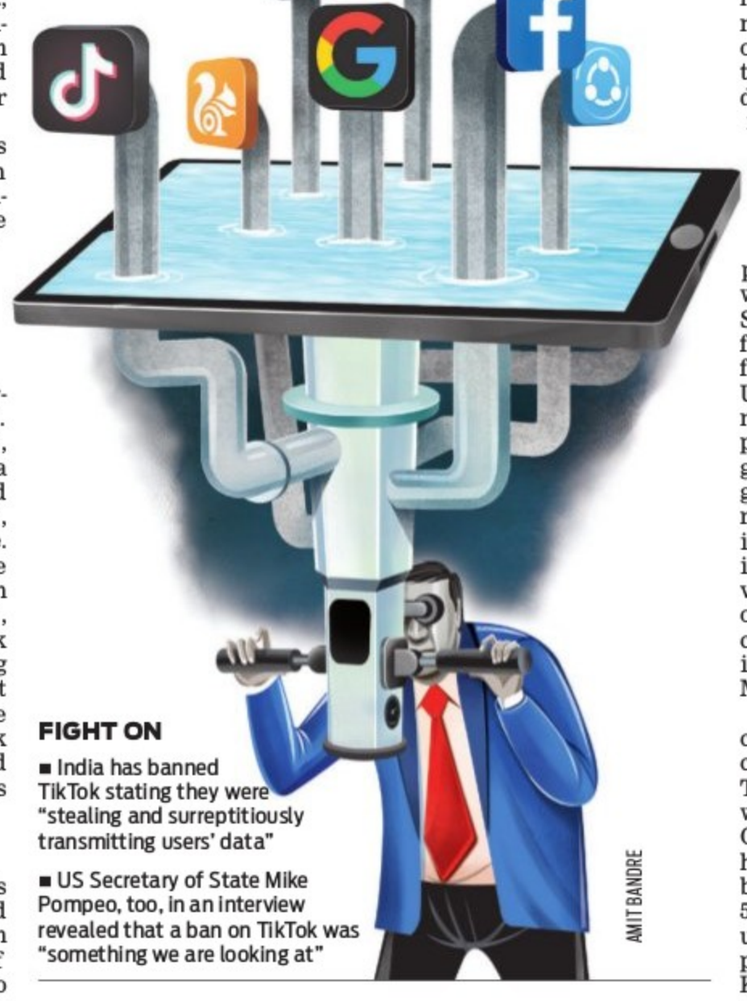
We have forgotten how the United Fruit Company in the 1950s and 60s became an arm of the US government in the Central American countries of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. United Fruit not only became the largest single landowner in central America; it ran postal services, nurtured 'banana' republics on behalf of the CIA, and deposed any regime that questioned US domination.

Or, more recently during the continuing Middle East conflicts, where Leidos Holdings merged with another defense contractor Lockheed Martin to become a $50 billion private military powerhouse. The merged entity's 8,000 private operatives, worked closely with the US military command, doing everything from analyzing signals for the US National Security Agency (NSA) to hunting down suspected 'terrorist' fighters for US Special Forces.

Cyber snooping is not the prerogative of China and Huawei. Revelations by Edward Snowden, the former US defense contractor, leaked classified information on how the US and its allies were running numerous global surveillance programs. One of these was a government snooping programme called 'Prism' which rode on the backs of nine US internet firms, and tapped into their servers to glean private information of millions of American citizens. The collaborating companies included Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo.

Or, even more recently, the company Cambridge Analytica became a tool of the Donald Trump election campaign. A whistleblower in the company, Christopher Wylie, exposed how Cambridge Analytica bought personal profiles of 50 million or more Facebook users in the US from an independent researcher Aleksandr Kogan. The data was then used to soft-target a mass of potential Trump supporters.

The Chinese, Huawei and TikTok are not innocent. But let us not pretend any of the other governments are. Those who have the wherewithal snoop on their own citizens, their neighbours and their trade competitors. That's the new normal. We have advanced from the age of colonialism to digital imperialism. Technology has grown not to give us greater freedom, but to wipe out whatever individual privacy we thought we enjoyed.



FIGHT ON

- India has banned TikTok stating they were "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data"
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, too, in an interview revealed that a ban on TikTok was "something we are looking at"

AMIT BANDRE

COVID IMPACT

IT firms may see revenue drop up to 15% in June quarter

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

AS major markets like the US, UK remained shut due to coronavirus pandemic in June quarter, FY21 and clients opted for reduced discretionary spending on technology, IT companies are likely to witness a 5-15 per cent revenue drop, show reports from brokerages.

Analysts say that the worst may, however, be over for a majority of the IT service providers in the first quarter of FY21 and companies are expected to be on track of posting flat growth in Q2, with further improvement from the September quarter as economies open up and clients bank on digital transformation and cloud adoption.

With many companies in the US filing for bankruptcies, sectors like Oil and Energy, Retail, Hospitality remained the worst-hit, while Banking and Financial sector, Online retail, LifeSciences and healthcare were not as much impacted. Experts observe that the companies reliant on the worst-hit sectors will post worse results than. The same holds true for mid-size or tier-II firms, where client concentration is across limited verticals and geographies. On July 9, India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy reported a 14 per cent loss in net profit to ₹7,008 crore for Q1 FY21, surprising many analysts especially since the firm's earlier results were better than peers in terms of deal wins and revenue growth.

Consequently, Wipro and Infosys are likely to post worse results considering their revenue growth over the past few quarters did not match with that of TCS's.

Business & Beyond

Muthoot Finance launches Loan@Home service

Muthoot Finance, the country's largest gold loan NBFC, has launched Loan@Home service. This service enables customers to avail a gold loan without stepping out of their home. Dedicated Loan@Home staff will visit the customer's home at the appointed date and time, carry out required digital checks, verify gold ornaments at the customer's premises, create the loan, generate loan documentation and the loan amount will be credited to the customer's bank account. "With Loan@Home, we are taking Muthoot Finance to the customer's home. Now customers can avail a gold loan from the comfort of his or her home without having to visit the branch at any stage of the procedure," said George Alexander Muthoot, Managing Director, Muthoot Finance.

B Sankar takes charge as Chief GM of SBI Chennai Circle

Public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that B Sankar has assumed charge as Chief General Manager of the bank's Chennai Circle. Earlier, Sankar served as the GM NW-II in the same circle. The circle, which covers entire Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, has 1,243 branches under its jurisdiction.

UCO Bank slashes MCLR by 10 bps across all tenors

State-run UCO Bank has reduced its marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points (bps) across all tenors, with effect from July 10. The revised one-year MCLR will be 7.5 per cent, down from 7.6 per cent. The revised overnight, one-month, three-months and six months tenor MCLR now stands at 6.9 per cent, 7.05 per cent, 7.15 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively, all 10 bps lower than their existing levels.

Domestic manufacturers oppose any import duty exemption on solar gear

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC solar equipment manufacturers have criticised a Power Ministry proposal to exempt solar projects from the new basic customs duty (BCD) on solar gear imports, as long they have signed power purchase agreements (PPA) before the tax takes effect in August.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's decision last week had come as a relief to solar developers since almost 80 per cent of project components are imported from China and the new import duty on such shipments would have resulted in significantly higher costs.

However, power minister R K Singh had told industry leaders last week that projects that had signed PPAs before August 1 will be allowed a pass-through of the additional duty — effectively making them exempt from the import duty of 20-25 per cent on solar modules and 15 per cent on solar cells set to be imposed from August 1. These duties are likely to be increased to as much as 40 per cent gradually. The pass-through needs to be approved by the finance ministry, but sources say that the MNRE may reimburse these developers the added cost of the duty even if the proposal is shot down. While the power ministry's decision will save substantial costs for solar project developers, domestic manufacturers have pointed out that this will only increase power tariffs across the board in these projects. It also does little to incentives the exempted developers to source equipment from Indian manufacturers. According to Hitesh Doshi, chairman of the All India Solar Industries Association, nearly 25 GW worth of contracts are likely to be exempted from the customs duty if the pass-through is allowed for imports from China.

> The government's decision on the "pass through" clause will adversely impact domestic manufacturers, as they will have no orders for the next 2-3 years. Already, the Covid-19 crisis has affected them...
>
> Hitesh Doshi, chairman, All India Solar Industries Association

Jack Charlton dies at 85

Jack Charlton, an uncompromising central defender who played alongside his brother Bobby in England's World Cup-winning side in 1966 before enjoying coaching success with Ireland, has died. He was 85. Charlton died at home on Friday in his native Northumberland in northeast England, surrounded by his family.

India A team activities may be put on hold

Cost-cutting measures on the cards as BCCI AC gets ready for meeting on July 17

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THE Apex Council of the BCCI at its meeting on July 17 will discuss the Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the men's and women's teams. One expects changes in it because of the pandemic. It is understood that a decision on the women's tour of England in late August will also be taken as standard operating procedures to resume cricket are being finalised.

The meeting holds significance with key decisions to be taken. Apart from the FTP, there are indications that A team engagements will be put on hold for the time being to save cost. Sources indicated that since there is no clarity over IPL at the moment, the BCCI is looking at cost cutting measures, unwilling to touch its reserves. This could affect India's A team set-up which has been successful of late.

With regards to the FTP, there have been indications that the board will discuss the possibility of resuming bilateral cricket, although hosting any series in India looks unlikely in the near future.

While the standard operating procedures (SOP) for resuming activities is ready, it needs formal approval, which one understands will be given during the meeting. Also, with SOP in hand, the BCCI will be able to take a call on domestic cricket. As reported by this daily earlier, chances of age-group tournaments being affected are high. Though BCCI president Sourav Ganguly recently said that resuming domestic cricket until the situation improves will be difficult, the board will look at other options before taking a call.

Also on the agenda is BCCI's decision to inform the International Cricket Council that the T20 World Cup scheduled to be hosted by India in 2021 should go ahead as per plans. With this year's T20 World Cup scheduled in Australia in October-November set to be postponed, Cricket Australia has expressed interest to host it next year. The BCCI is unwilling to give up the event it is supposed to host in 2021 and wait until 2022.

"India has the 2023 50-over World Cup to host as well. If ICC wants to push next year's T20 WC in India to 2022, then there will be successive global events in India in 2022 and 2023. We don't want back-to-back events. The board also needs to decide the tax exemption impasse," sources in the know told this daily.

Meanwhile, if the ICC formally decides to postpone the T20 World Cup, BCCI might call for an informal IPL Governing Council meeting.

SPORTS CARE CENTRES

Eden Garden is the latest among India's sports complexes to be used for Covid care purposes. A look at some of the stadia across the nation which have opened their doors...

BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's facility at Koramangala Indoor Stadium has become a quarantine centre, with a capacity of 450 beds. There is one doctor and two nurses for every 100 patients. Some of the rooms at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium are being used by the corporation for quarantining police personnel, who have been suspected of Covid-19 positive cases.

MUMBAI

The National Sports Club of India dome in Worli is a dedicated Covid hospital. It has 10 modular ICUs, a patient capacity of 528 and 80 on-site medical personnel (25 doctors, 50 nurses and a gynaecologist). Bombay Municipal Corporation has also zeroed in on Wankhede and Brabourne Stadium, and the ground at Bandra Kurla Complex for facilities.

NEW DELHI

A 500-bedded Covid-19 care centre has been put in place at the Commonwealth Games Village Indoor Stadium. The unit was installed with the help of Doctors For You, a non-profit organisation, and is currently attached to LNJP Hospital. The facility has separate wards for men and women, and also accommodation for doctors and nurses.

CHENNAI

The multi-purpose Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, located close to the railway station, served as a rendezvous point for the local authorities to coordinate the return of thousands of migrant workers by special trains from the city. Both the Chennai corporation and NGOs have been supplying the workers who assemble at the venue with essential items.

KOLKATA

The city police has been given access to the space under five blocks of galleries at Eden Gardens, along with a kitchen. The Cricket Association of Bengal arrived at an agreement with the authorities to continue its administrative activities, and shifted groundsmen and other personnel to other blocks at the stadium and its dormitory.

Core group shooters face ammunition shortage

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

SPORTS Authority of India (SAI) has opened Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi from Wednesday for elite shooters to start their preparations for the 2021 Olympics.

However, not all from the 34-member core group announced by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) last month, could travel to the national capital and resume training. A few of them are training at shooting ranges closer to their homes and are being forced to undergo holding practice for months now in absence of ammunition.

Swapnil Kusale and Tejaswini Sawant, both 50m rifle 3P shooters, along with 25m pistol shooters Rahi Sarnobat and Abhidnya Patil are training in Kolhapur. Madhya Pradesh shooters including Aishwarya Pratap Singh and Sunidhi Chauhan (both 50m rifle 3P) along with Chinki Yadav (25m pistol) are practising at the State Shooting Academy in Bhopal. Apart from them, 50m rifle 3P shooter Gaayathri N is training in Coimbatore.

While the shooters from Madhya Pradesh are being taken care of by the state academy, those who are training on their own have run out of ammunition to start target practice. "Ever since I fetched my rifle from Pune in May, I have been doing holding practice as I don't have ammunition to start target shooting," Kusale told this daily.

The 25-year-old Maharashtra shooter travels to Kolhapur range every alternate day from his village Kambalwadi, which is around 50km from the city. "We cannot import ammunition at the moment. I have spoken to coach Deepali Deshpande in this regard and she has assured me that she will speak to the NRAI and SAI to get the issue resolved." Kusale, however, informed that Sarnobat has started target practice as she isn't facing the shortage.

Interestingly, the SAI, in its mail sent directly to the shooters intimating them the opening of the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, said that it will also provide necessary ammunition for the training. It also contacted the coaches informing them about the plan.

Rifle shooter Swapnil Kusale has been doing only holding practice since May

Some shooters told me about the shortage and I've communicated the same to SAI and TOPS officials. Transporting ammunition will not be an issue as it can be done without any hassle during the lockdown.

Deepali Deshpande, national coach

"I have been in regular touch with the shooters," said Deshpande. "A few of them told me about the shortage and I have communicated the same to SAI and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) officials, who in turn were considerate. Transporting ammunition will not be an issue as it can be done without any hassle even during the lockdown. I am hopeful the shooters will soon receive the ammunition to start target practice."

Deshpande felt that the national camp can begin by the middle of September after considering the situation. "The SAI and (TOPS) officials contacted us seeking our views on the resumption of training. Given the situation, it's not possible for all the shooters to travel to Delhi and resume training. A few are already training at shooting ranges near to their homes. It will be better if they can continue training there, maybe, till the next month. A camp can be started in mid-September after assessing the situation," added the coach.

Dom Sibley's half-century helped England erase first-innings deficit | AFP

Openers help Eng crawl back

SOUTHAMPTON: West Indies were keeping the pressure on England in the first Test on Saturday, with the hosts limping to 54-run lead after reaching tea at 168/3 on Day 4.

BRIEF SCORES

DAY 4, TEA England 204 & 168/3 (Sibley 50) vs **West Indies 318.**

England's run-rate in the second innings was 2.4 per over. Two wickets fell in the middle session, when 89 runs were scored in 30 overs. Dom Sibley (50) was dismissed by Shannon Gabriel while Joe Denly fell to Roston Chase for 29. Zak Crawley was on 38 and stand-in captain Ben Stokes was yet to get off the mark after 15 balls.

EXPRESS READ

Relegation for Norwich, Liverpool held at home

LONDON: Norwich were condemned to a record fifth relegation from the Premier League as Michail Antonio's four-goal blitz fired West Ham to a 4-0 win at Carrow Road on Saturday. Liverpool were held 1-1 by Burnley at Anfield, snapping a winning home run by the Reds which began last January. Norwich are 13 points from safety with only three games left, meaning they are certain to make a return to the Championship.

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Ports & Inland Water Transport)
Office of the Marine Engineer, Department of Ports & IWT, Baithkol, Karwar-581302
No.ME/GNL/CR-03/2020 Date: 08.07.2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Rates Quotations in sealed cover/e-procurement are invited by the undersigned from the reputed, bonafide, resourceful & experienced firms/contractors who are having similar nature of work experience for the details mentioned below for **"Providing 2 No.s of minimum 30 Ton Bollard Pull capacity each Tug service on hire basis for berthing and unberthing of Ships, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and other services for a period of 3 years with extension of 2 more years, if required, (as per same terms and conditions) by the port authority at Karwar Port, Uttarakannada"** - Fuel and fresh water supply to the tug on Port account and nil charges towards mobilization/ demobilization. **Qty:** 2 Tugs, **Unit:** Per day hire charges, **Rate**(excluding GST): in Figures..... Words.....

Submit your completed finished rates including Handling, Operation and Maintenance (HOM) charges of Tug, Labour, Maintenance, etc., Excluding of GST and inclusive of all applicable taxes, prevailing at the time of your quotation to the undersigned **before 24.07.2020**. This sealed quotation rates are purely **for preparation of estimate/ budgetary purpose only.** The specification of required tugs for the Karwar Port in **Appendix-1**. Please go through the same before submitting your quotation.

For any further information please contact the following the address.
(1) E-mail: **marineengineerkwr@gmail.com** (2) **Phone No.: 08382-221402**. (3) **www.eproc.karantaka.gov.in**

Sd/- Marine Engineer
Port & IWT Department, Karwar

DIPR/KWR/MCA/188/20-21 dt. 10.7.20

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore - 560 001.

1) Aggregate Amount : **Rs.1000 crore**
2) Method of Issue : **By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)**
3) Date of auction : **July 14, 2020**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/-
(Dr. Ekroop Caur)
Secretary to Government,
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/DDU/2020-21

Karnataka Government (An Autonomous Institution)
KARWAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KARWAR
E-Tender Notification

No: KIMS/e-Tender/44/2020-21 Date: 04.07.2020

E-tender invited for **Paramedical Staff** services at Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences, Karwar. The details of e-tender can be obtained from website. http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

1. Commencement of date for uploading of tender forms : 10.07.2020
2. Pre-bid Date : 24.07.2020
3. Last date for uploading the tender forms : 11.08.2020 Before 5:00 pm.
4. Opening of the technical bids : 13.08.2020

Sd/- Director, KIMS, Karwar

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME
NOTICE NO.02/2020

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non-Ferrous Scrap, other Misc Scrap, Condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way Scrap material.

Sl. No.	e-auction conducted by	Date of auction for the Month of August 2020		
1.	Dy. CMM/GSD/PER	04.08.2020	—	18.08.2020
2.	Dy. CMM/CSSD/GOC	03.08.2020	—	17.08.2020
3.	Dy. CMM/SSD/PTJ	12.08.2020	—	25.08.2020
4.	Sr. DMM/MAS	07.08.2020	—	21.08.2020
5.	Sr. DMM/TVC	05.08.2020	—	19.08.2020
6.	Sr. DMM/TVC (for PGT Divn.)	06.08.2020	—	20.08.2020
7.	Sr. DMM/TPJ	—	—	27.08.2020
8.	Sr. DMM/TVC (for MDU Divn.)	13.08.2020	—	26.08.2020
9.	Sr. DMM/SA	10.08.2020	—	24.08.2020

Materials for auction : The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in **www.ireps.gov.in** website.
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue, please visit our website : **http://www.ireps.gov.in→E-Auction→Sale→Live Auctions.**

Dy. CMM/Sales/PER
For PCMM/S. Rly

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Public Works, Port & Inland Water Transport Department
(An ISO 9001-2008 Certified Division)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
No.1, Buildings Division, S.J.P. Campus, Bangalore
Tel.: 080-22255210, Fax : 22250755 e-mail : eebld1@kpwd.gov.in

IFT No.:EE/Bid1/AE3/12/2020-21 Date : 09.07.2020

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1) The Executive Engineer No. 1, Buildings Division, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). **The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.** (Standard Tender Document - KW3) **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 09.07.2020 **3)** Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the work in the Table below. Earnest money deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the Tender document and shall have to be valid for 45 days **beyond** the validity of the tender. **4)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00** hours on **20.07.2020** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines on **21.07.2020 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Package No.: 1 **Name of Work :** House keeping for inside and out side premises, Providing Lift operators, Plumbers, Pump operators and other necessary Maintenance persons, Plumbing and Sanitary fittings and other allied works to M.S. Building 1st Stage Bangalore (Period 01.07.2020 to 31.03.2021) KPWD / 2020-21 / BD / WORK_INDENT 124573. **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) :** 76.77 **Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) :** 1,54,000/- **Cost of document (in Rs.) :** As per e-portal **Period of completion :** 9 Months Including rain season. **Number of Call** : 1st Call. **Package No.:** 2 **Name of Work :** Providing House keeping work in 2nd stage all floors (except the floors area which are undertaken by DPAR) including terrace roof external cleaning of back side concrete path ways, premisses and passages, Lift operators, Plumbers, Pump operators and other necessary, plumbing, water supply works at M.S. Building Bangalore. (Period from 01.07.2020 to 31.03.2021). KPWD / 2020-21 / BD / WORK_INDENT 124671. **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) :** 84.56 **Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) :** 1,70,000/- **Cost of document (in Rs.) :** As per e-portal **Period of completion :** 9 Months Including rain season. **Number of Call :** 1st Call.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
No. 1, Building Division, Bangalore

DIPR/Alaknanda/2020-21

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Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:Tender-23:2020-21 Date: 10.07.2020

SHORTTERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender in Rs.
1	Two Cover system	
	8443-00-117-0-12-542 (01566A003) -Deposit Contribution - RIDF -Nabard - 25	
	General	
1	Package-7:(Work Indent 121939)/call-5	**7794296.04**

Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Late Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications	17.07.2020	Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders	20.07.2020	Time: 16.00
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	21.07.2020	Time: 16.01
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid	23.07.2020	Time: 16.01

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department Division, Chitradurga

DIPR/Chitradurga/228/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
VELLORE CORPORATION
Corporation office, Vellore

Roc.No.6209 /2018/S1 **OPEN TENDER NOTICE** Date : 09.07.2020

The Commissioner, Vellore Corporation invites tenders in two cover system for the following works as per the conditions laid down in the tender notice published in website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work (Smart City Mission)	Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs	EMD Cost Rs.	Period for Completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1.20 MW of Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant in the ABD Area of Vellore City Municipal Corporation at STP Area near Palar River	628.00	6,28,000/-	12 – Months
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	**30.07.2020** at **11.00 am** at The Chamber of City Engineer Vellore Corporation.		
3.	Date and time and venue of Tender	**18.08.2020,** Tuesday **3.00 pm** at Vellore Corporation		
4.	Date, Time and Venue of opening	**18.08.2020,** Tuesday **3.30 pm** at Vellore Corporation Office		
5.	Tender document availability and other details	Other Details can be obtained from the tender notice published in website **https://tntenders.gov.in** or from Vellore Corporation Office, Engineering section during working hours on working days.		

For contact : 0416 - 2220578 DIPR/2594/TENDER/2020 **Commissioner, Vellore Corporation**

Pneumonia in Kazakhstan may be Covid, says WHO

UNEXPLAINED

LONDON: The emergencies chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) says the agency believes an unexplained pneumonia outbreak in Kazakhstan is likely due to the coronavirus.

Dr Michael Ryan says Kazakh authorities have reported more than 10,000 lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases in the last week and just under 50,000 cases and 264 deaths as of Tuesday.

"We're looking at the actual testing and the quality of testing to make sure that there haven't been false negative tests for some of those other pneumonias that are provisionally tested negative," Ryan said.

He added that many pneumonia cases were likely to be Covid-19 and "just have not been diagnosed correctly." Ryan says WHO was working with local authorities to review X-rays and look at the pattern of pneumonia cases to see if they were consistent with Covid-19. "While we believe that many of these cases will be diagnosed as Covid-19, we keep an open mind," says Ryan, noting a WHO team was already in Kazakhstan.

Since lockdown restrictions were lifted in May the oil-rich country has seen virus cases grow more than fivefold, to nearly 55,000 cases. The Central Asian countries have recently been accused of underplaying the scale of their second wave of cases by classifying many as pneumonia.

EXFILE.

MISSION MARS!

Last week, NASA's Perseverance Mars rover was attached to the top of the rocket that will send it toward our neighbouring Red Planet by end of the month. Though the launch of the rover has been delayed, NASA has attached it to the top of its Atlas V rocket at Cape Canaveral. We take a look at the specifications of this rocket

FIRST FLIGHT	HEIGHT	THRUST	MASS AT LIFTOFF
August 2002	200 FEET	10,600 KN	5.9 LAKH KG

5TH GENERATION

Atlas V is the fifth major version in the Atlas rocket family

It was initially designed by Lockheed Martin

Currently it is operated by United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint venture between Lockheed and Boeing

DESIGN

Its modular design helps accommodate a full range of mission requirements

Atlas V uses a standard common core booster, up to five solid rocket boosters (SRBs), a Centaur upper stage in a single- or dual-engine configuration and one of several sizes of payload fairings.

TESTING

With the mating of spacecraft and booster complete, the final testing of the two (separately and as one unit) will be underway

2 DAYS

before the July 30 launch, the Atlas V will leave the Vertical Integration Facility for good

ROVER ON BOARD

Travelling by rail, it will cover the 550 metres to the launch pad in about 40 minutes

From there, Perseverance has about seven months and 467 mn kms to go before arriving at Mars

NEW LAUNCH WINDOW

NASA and ULA recently updated the mission's launch period – the range of days the rocket can launch in order to reach Mars

It now spans from July 30 to August 15

WHY THE DELAY

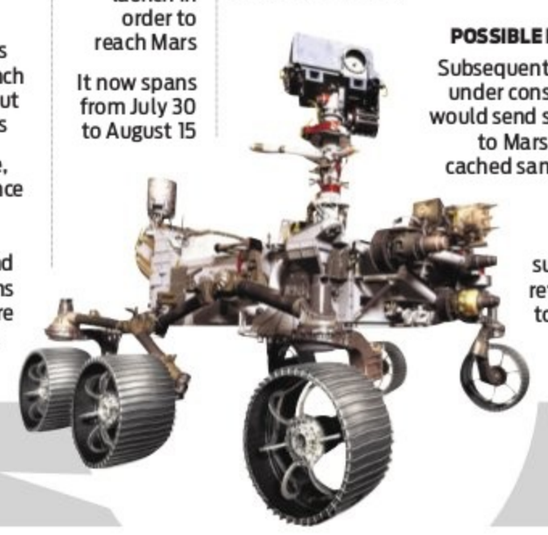
The launch period opening changed from July 17 to 30 due to launch vehicle processing delays in preparation for spacecraft mate operations

AIM IS TO REACH MARS

No matter what day Perseverance lifts off during its July 30 to August 15 launch period, it will land in Mars' Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021

POSSIBLE MISSIONS

Subsequent missions, under consideration, would send spacecraft to Mars to collect cached samples that the rover collected from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis



WHAT WILL PERSEVERANCE DO?

The Mars 2020 Perseverance rover's astrobiology mission will search for signs of ancient microbial life

> I have seen my fair share of spacecraft being lifted onto rockets. But this one is special because there are so many people who contributed to this moment. To each one of them I want to say, we got here together, and we'll make it to Mars the same way
>
> John McNamee, project manager Mars 2020 Perseverance rover

High blood sugar elevates virus mortality risk: Study

Researchers urged hospitals to test Covid-19 patients for glucose levels, as opposed to only those known to have diabetes

NEW FINDINGS

BEIJING: Patients with Covid-19 who have elevated blood sugar levels without a previous diagnosis of diabetes may be at a high risk of death and an increased risk of severe complications from the infectious disease, a new study says.

According to the scientists, including those from the Tongji Medical College in China, earlier studies had established high blood sugar as associated with an increased risk of mortality and poor outcomes in Covid-19 patients.

However, they said direct correlation between fasting blood glucose (FBG) level at admission to hospital, and clinical outcomes of Covid-19 patients — without diagnosed diabetes — has not been well established.

In the new study, published in the journal *Diabetologia*, the researchers examined the association between FBG on admission, and the 28-day mortality of Covid-19 patients without previously diagnosed diabetes in two hospitals in China. The study assessed data from all consecutive Covid-19 patients

with a known outcome at 28-days and FBG measurement at admission from 24 January 2020 to 10 February 2020 in two hospitals based in Wuhan.

"Blood sugar testing and control should be recommended to all Covid-19 patients even if they do not have pre-existing diabetes, as most Covid-19 patients are prone to glucose metabolic disorders," they wrote in the study.

For the study, scientists assessed patients' demographic and clinical data, 28-day outcomes, in-hospital complications, and CRB-65 scores — a measure for assessing the severity of pneumonia based on four indicators, including level of confusion, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and age.

They said a total of 605 Covid-19 patients were enrolled in the study, including 114 who died in hospital. The median age of participants was 59 years and 322 were men.

A total of 208 individuals had one or more underlying conditions, but were not diagnosed with diabetes, the scientists said, adding that high blood pressure was the most common co-morbidity.

The researchers said almost one third of the patients fell into the highest category of FBG on admission, which they said would result in a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes if found consistently. The study noted that a further 17 per cent were in the range that would be considered pre-diabetic, while more than half were in the 'normal' FBG range.

The study, which looked at hospital patients admitted in January and February, had some limitations, experts not involved in the research said.

"This is a nice report but it is fully in line with expectations," Naveed Sattar, a professor of metabolic medicine at the University of Glasgow who was not one of the study's authors, said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Oz teen killed by shark

JAWS

A 15-year-old surfer died on Saturday when he was mauled by a shark, the second fatal attack in a week in Australia and already at least the fifth this year. Police said the boy was surfing at Wooli Beach, near Grafton, about 600 kilometres north of Sydney in New South Wales state and the shark attack left him with severe injuries to his legs. Several surfers came to the aid of the boy and helped him to shore for medical attention. Despite CPR efforts to revive him, he died at the scene. Police initially said the victim was 17, but later corrected his age to 15. Last Saturday, a 20-year-old scuba diver was killed by a shark off the coast of Queensland.

FB bug behind apps crashing

BUG ISSUES

Friday's widespread crashes of popular apps running on the iPhone's iOS operating system — including Tinder, Spotify and Pinterest — serve as a reminder that Facebook is still tracking you through your phone using sophisticated software, even if you're not browsing the social network. Early Friday, users of the apps reported crashes when they tried to open them up. Facebook attributed the problem, which was quickly fixed, to a bug in its software development kit, or SDK, a tool developers use to integrate their apps with Facebook. The integration allows people to use their Facebook credentials to log in to apps for dating, music or anything else.

Small algae bloom in Lake Erie?

2020 FORECAST

Lake Erie's annual blob of pea-green algae is expected to be smaller this summer than a year ago following a relatively dry spring, but that doesn't necessarily reflect significant improvement toward reducing the nutrient pollution that causes it, scientists said on Thursday. A forecast released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts the algae bloom on the shallowest of the Great Lakes will reach 4.5 on its severity index — a "moderate" reading. That's lower than last year's 7.3 rating but higher than the 3.8 measured in 2018. Anything above 5 indicates a severe problem. The measurements indicate the bloom's biomass — the amount of algae in the water for an extended period. The largest occurred in 2011, which had a severity index of 10, and in 2015, when it hit 10.5. The drop-off this year is expected because of a decrease in spring rainfall from 2019, NOAA oceanographer Rick Stumpf said.

Silicone face masks that are reusable

WITH N95 FILTER

NEW YORK: In fight against novel coronavirus, researchers have developed a reusable silicone rubber face mask with an N95 filter, which they believe could stop viral particles.

According to the study, published in the *British Medical Journal Open*, the new masks were designed to be easily sterilised and used many times.

The new mask is made of durable silicone rubber and can be manufactured using injection moulding, which is widely used in factories around the world. It requires much less N95 material than a traditional N95 mask.

The masks are based on the shape of the 3M 1860 style of N95 masks, the type normally used at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Researchers tested several different sterilisation methods on the silicone masks and found that silicone material was undamaged.

2nd Covid patient gets double lung transplant

NEW ORGANS

NEW YORK: Surgeons led by an Indian-origin doctor have performed a double-lung transplant on a second patient whose lungs were damaged by Covid-19, within a month after the same team conducted what is believed to have been the first such surgery in US.

The patient, an Illinois man in his 60s, spent 100 days on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a life support machine that does the work of the heart and lungs. He received the transplant last weekend at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, the hospital said.

"This procedure capped an extremely busy holiday weekend for our transplant team. We worked around the clock, performing multiple transplants on non-Covid patients before accepting new lungs for this Covid-19 survivor," said Dr Ankit Bharat, chief of thoracic surgery and surgical director of the Northwestern Medicine Lung Transplant Programme, who performed seven lung transplants in seven days.

"Performing back to back lung transplants on such complex patients is demanding work and I'm extremely proud of our team's dedication. It's a testament to the infrastructure and expertise of Northwestern Medicine's Lung Transplant Programme," the Meerut-born doctor said.

The patient contracted Covid-19 in late March and received the majority of his treatment at another health system before being transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for consideration of a double-lung transplant. Within 72 hours of being listed, the life-saving procedure was performed on July 4.

Before the patient's name was added to the transplant wait-list, he had to test negative for Covid-19.

Typically, a double-lung transplant takes 6 to 7 hours, but this surgery took about 10 hours due to lung necrosis and severe inflammation in the chest cavities resulting from Covid-19. Northwestern surgeons led by Dr Bharat in June have performed what is believed to have been the first-known lung transplant on a Covid-19 patient in the US last month — on a woman in her 20s.

FAMILY PACK

Two Asiatic lion *(Panthera leo persica)* female cubs born on April 29 play next to their mother during a presentation for the press at Rome's Bioparco Zoo on Friday. The Italian zoo had reopen in late May, following a closure of more than two months due to the coronavirus pandemic | AP

SKYGAZING

Check out the brightest comet now, or wait for 7,000 years

COSMIC VISITOR

CAPE CANAVERAL: A newly discovered comet is streaking past Earth, providing a stunning night time show after buzzing the Sun and expanding its tail.

Comet Neowise — the brightest comet visible from the Northern Hemisphere in a quarter-century — swept within Mercury's orbit a week ago.

Its close proximity to the Sun caused dust and gas to burn off its surface and create an even bigger debris tail. Now the comet is headed our way, with closest approach in two weeks.

Discovered on March 27, 2020, Comet C/2020 F3 was named Neowise after being tracked by Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE). The NASA space telescope discovered the comet from 525 kilometres above the Earth's surface.

> Its closest approach to Earth will be on July 22, at a distance of about 103 million kilometres. The comet takes about 6,800 years to make one lap around its long, stretched out orbit, so it won't visit the inner solar system again for many thousands of years
>
> NASA

Scientists involved in the mission said the comet is about five kilometres across. Its nucleus is covered with sooty material dating back to the origin of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago.

Comet Neowise soars in the horizon of the early morning sky at the Colorado National Monument west of Grand Junction on Thursday | AP

The comet will be visible across the Northern Hemisphere until mid-August, when it heads back toward the outer solar system. Through about the middle of July, the comet will be visible around 10 degrees above the northeastern horizon in the hour before dawn. While it would be seen with the naked eye in dark skies; however binoculars are needed to see the long tail, according to NASA.

It will be about 7,000 years before the comet returns, "so I wouldn't suggest waiting for the next pass," said the telescope's deputy principal investigator Joe Masiero of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Neowise's bright tail will drop away as the comet gets farther away from our Solar System's heat source. Masiero said it is the brightest comet since the mid-1990s for stargazers in the Northern Hemisphere.

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station have already caught a glimpse.

NASA's Bob Behnken shared a spectacular photo of the comet on social media late Thursday, showing central Asia in the background and the space station in the foreground. "Stars, cities, spaceships, and a comet!" he tweeted from orbit.